

## Guidelines for GIVING a party or having friends over

1. Plan in advance. Know who the guests will be. Limited numbers and written invitations can curb the “open party” situation. Set definite time limits, obeying community curfews.
2. Set ground rules ahead of time. Youth want guidelines, so let them know your expectations. Good rules include no use of alcohol or other drugs, no leaving the party and then returning, no party crashers allowed, and designation of off-limit rooms of the house.
3. Parents and adults must be at the party, no parents – no party! Responsible parents/adults must be visible and aware. If things should get out of hand, despite precautions, do not hesitate to call local police for assistance.
4. Know your responsibilities. Remember, it is illegal to provide or allow alcohol to youth under age 21. Adults are liable to both criminal charges and for monetary damages in case of a civil lawsuit where alcohol or other drugs are used by youth under 21 on our property.
5. Notify neighbors that a party is being hosted and will be supervised.
6. Should you become aware, after the fact, of any youth’s use of alcohol or other drugs at the party – notify their parents.

## Guidelines for ATTENDING a party or visiting friends

1. Know where your youth will be. Obtain an address and phone number. Agree that you will be called if the location is changed.
2. Personally contact the parents of the party giver to offer assistance and support, verify the occasion and their knowledge of it, make sure they will be present and certain that alcohol and other drugs will not be permitted.
3. Agree beforehand on a curfew and be awake when your youth gets home. Make a point to greet your youth every time. If your youth expects that, it will give them a good excuse to say “no” to alcohol/drugs.
4. Verify overnight arrangements, whether planned or spontaneous.
5. Know how your youth will get to and from the party. Arrange that you or a specific person can be called if they need a ride home. Discuss the possible situations that might necessitate this.
6. If your youth attends a party where alcohol or drugs is either served by a parent or allowed, it is important to call and discuss your feelings and the legal ramifications – and share this information with other parents.
7. When you need to leave town, arrange for a responsible adult to stay with your youth, or have your youth stay at a friend’s house whose parents you know and trust, and/or inform your neighbors of your absence. Request they contact you or the police, if a party occurs. Let the parents of your youth’s friends know of your absence. Cooperation is both essential and productive.
8. Express thanks and support for those parents and youth who give parties with these guidelines.



**For more information:**  
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