

Parties are an important part of young people’s lives for socialization, relaxation, and entertainment. Unfortunately, hosting or going to a party often includes other activities that could be harmful to teens. Parents have the right to expect that social situations remain free from alcohol/drug use and other risk-taking behaviors. This guide is for parents to help their teens avoid social pressures to engage in risky behavior.

### Hosting a party:

1. Set the ground rules with your teen and his or her friends before the party. Lay out clear expectations and specify consequences if expectations are not met.
2. Encourage small parties that are invitation only as they are easier to control and monitor. Do not allow for last minute changes.
3. Contact parents of every attendee via phone or email before the party. Share your expectations of a sober event and ask parents to share these expectations with their teen. Invite other parents to stop by and help chaperone. If a teen is sleeping over, ask the parents to check bags prior to leaving their home. Obtain cell phone information for all attendees’ parents.
4. Check your entire home for hidden substances prior to the party, including all entrances, bushes around the outside of the house, removable ceiling tiles, window sills, storage areas, etc. Remove access to alcohol and prescription drugs inside the home.
5. Notify the neighbors and the police when planning a large party.
6. At least one adult chaperone should be present and visible throughout the party. Do not allow siblings to chaperone, even if they’re over 18. Check in on party guests often and replenish food and beverages.
7. Monitor all entrances/exits and watch for inappropriate or prolonged activity outdoors, in the bathrooms, or elsewhere in your home. Do not have your own guests over unless they agree to help chaperone.
8. Anyone who leaves the party should not be allowed to return. If this happens, notify the guest’s parents.
9. Be alert for signs of alcohol or other drug use. If you suspect a teen is intoxicated, call his/her parents and if necessary call 911.
10. Do not hesitate to call the police if the party gets out of hand. You will not be charged with social host if you call the police before they call you!

### Attending a party—parents should:

1. Contact the parents of the party host to verify plans and that no drugs or alcohol will be permitted. Don’t be afraid to communicate your family’s “no use” rules. Offer to help chaperone and/or bring food, beverages.
2. Know where the party is and how to get there. Let your teen know to call you with any change in plans. Ask your teen to call you from the host parent’s home phone or consider obtaining a GPS “app” to monitor the location of your teen’s cell phone.
3. Check the ending time to make sure it fits with your town’s curfew restrictions, and talk to your teen about allowing enough time to drive home safely before curfew.
4. Be awake when your teen comes home, or have your teen wake you when he/she arrives. Talk to your teen and inquire about the party. Night time is often when teens are most talkative!
5. If your teen is staying overnight, plans should be made prior to the party and verified with the other parent. Consider a no-sleepover policy for parties as this is often how teens keep their alcohol and drug use hidden from their parents.
6. Help your teen to feel comfortable to call home for a ride or assistance. Establish code words with your teen so you know when they need you.

### When parents are away:

Teens, even seniors in high school, still need supervision when you are away. Make sure it is provided. Many parties occur at the homes of students whose parents are out of town. Remember, even if you are not present, you can still be held liable for social hosting. Before you leave:

1. Set clear rules with your teen that no parties or friends are allowed in your home when an authorized adult is not present.
2. Let your neighbors know when you will be gone and when you will return. Make sure they know how to contact you.
3. Let the police know when you will leave, who has access to your house, and when you will return.
4. Tell the parents of your teen’s friends when you will be away.

#### **5 Communities Curfew for Teens Under 18 (17 in Highwood)**

*Sun-Thur.: 11pm | Fri-Sat: Midnight (Illinois driving curfew is one hour earlier)*

Teens may not be in public unless with a parent or traveling to/from work. Other exceptions apply in each community. Curfew lifts at 6am. Deerfield curfew is an hour earlier for teens under 16.

## Host Consequences

The Illinois Social Host Law holds parents or other adults accountable for knowingly permitting underage youth to consume alcoholic beverages at their residence or on other property they own or otherwise control. The law sends a message that hosting underage drinking parties is unacceptable conduct, empowers concerned citizens to report suspected underage drinking, and provides law enforcement with a tool to address underage drinking parties that are a threat to public health.

- Illinois Statutes: 235 ILCS 5/6-16 a-1, 235 ILCS 5/6-16 (c) & 235 ILCS 5/6-16 (d)
- Potential Fine: \$500 dollar up to \$25,000
- Potential Jail Time: 1 day up to 3 years
- Additional Sanctions Available: Probation and/or Court Supervision
- Safe Harbor Provision: If the person who occupies a residence where underage drinking is occurring contacts the police for assistance in removing the offenders (before anyone else makes a formal complaint) the person may avoid prosecution for a violation of the statute.
- Civil Liability Statute: 740 ILCS 58

For local social host ordinance information, check with your police department.

*Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit working to reduce alcohol and other drug use among youth in Bannockburn, Deerfield, Highland Park, Highland, and Riverwoods.*

🌐 [www.CommunityTheAntiDrug.org](http://www.CommunityTheAntiDrug.org)  
✉ [info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org](mailto:info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org)  
☎ 224-765-CTAD (2823)



**COMMUNITY**  
THE ANTI-DRUG



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## Parent Tips for Teen Parties



It's not one 60-minute conversation.  
It's 60 one-minute conversations.

**6**   
**Conversations**

No es una conversación de 60 minutos.  
Son 60 conversaciones de un minuto.

[www.CommunityTheAntiDrug.org](http://www.CommunityTheAntiDrug.org)