



A message to parents: Don't Make the Big Mistake...

"Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking"

Parents have the best of intentions when hosting a prom or graduation party in their child's honor, but hosting a party where alcohol is available for teens is a big mistake. Underage drinking parties are a health and safety problem with serious legal ramifications. "Parents Who Host: Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking."

Here are the facts:

- Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law. You can face a minimum sentence of 3 months in jail and/or a \$500 fine.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.
- Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by hosting safe, alcohol-free parties for youth during prom and graduation season. Refuse to supply alcohol to children in your home or on your property; be at home when your teenager has a party; make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home; talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events; provide teenagers with opportunities for alcohol-free events and activities; provide non-alcoholic beverages; and report underage drinking to your local law enforcement office.

All of us have the opportunity and responsibility to help Michigan's youth reach their full potential. As a parent, do your part to make this prom and graduation season safe for everybody.

The "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" public awareness campaign is a program of The Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities (ACHC) and the Oakland County Health Division – Office of Substance Abuse Services. For more information call: Lisa Fockler at 248-858-5325.

Adapted with permission from Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.



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