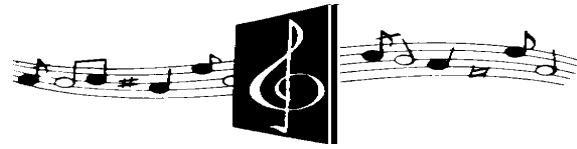


## THE PROBLEM

The desire to be liked and accepted by friends and classmates becomes a powerful pressure during the teen years. There is pressure on youth to use alcohol and drugs - especially at parties. The strength and example a teen needs to respond wisely to these demands comes from the home and family. A sound base of good judgment, good communications, correct behaviour and good relationships should be built early. The last thing we want as parents is to see destructive behaviour become part of the life of our teen. The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide some ideas that will keep everybody safe and secure during teen parties. As parents we should know in advance how to handle the questions and the demands that come with teen parties.

## WHAT'S OUT THERE?

- Rave parties: held in abandoned / lonely houses, apartments or other buildings
- Pit parties: held in gravel pits in remote areas
- Bush parties: held in lonely out of the way places in the forest
- Cottage or Beach parties: held in or near cottages with OR without the owners' permission
- Irresponsible parents who provide alcohol for teens
- Drinking-age friends who provide alcohol for teens



## MOM, I'M GOING TO A PARTY!

### Parents should know where their teen will be.

- get address & phone number of party
- verify the occasion with the head of the house
- offer to help
- make sure responsible adults will be present
- ensure no drugs or alcohol will be permitted
- know when the party starts and ends

## TRANSPORTATION TIME & SLEEP OVERS

- know how your teen is getting to & from party
- make definite plans for transportation
- ensure alternate plans if changes happen
- set a definite time that your teen must be home
- be awake when your teen arrives home
- check out overnighters with the other parents involved
- always confirm spontaneous sleep over arrangements with an adult



## EXCUSES WE'VE ALL HEARD ("Guilt Trip Statements")

- *I'll be the only one not there*
- *You're so mean*
- *You just don't trust me*
- *You treat me like a baby*
- *I hate you*
- *I'll never talk to you again*
- *As soon as I'm 16, I'm moving out*
- *Everybody else does it*

## IT'S PARTY TIME - AT YOUR HOUSE!

A party is the responsibility of BOTH the parent and the teen. A good discussion ahead of time will give you an opportunity to share feelings and ideas.



Talk about protecting the home against damage from carelessness and overcrowding.

Never leave teenagers unsupervised while you go on a trip, even if you think it's safe. A friend of your teen may not be so trustworthy and will plan a party for your home anyway. Many homes have been trashed because vacationing parents were naïve. Party crashers often bring alcohol and criminal behaviours with them.

If there will be a mixed age grouping (guests both over and under 19) it is best to set a no alcohol policy.

## HOST OBLIGATIONS

- It is illegal to allow guests to use drugs in your home. You may face criminal charges and civil liability suits
- It is illegal to provide alcohol or tobacco products to minors
- Notify parents of any teen who uses drugs or alcohol and ensure the teen has a safe ride home
- Never let anyone drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Rules should be made ahead of time
- Set reasonable time limits
- No alcohol – it's illegal under age
- Lock up the alcohol in your home
- Parents should never drink during the party
- No overcrowding – it's dangerous. Limit the number of guests, and don't allow party crashers
- Smoking can lead to problems in confined spaces – plan ahead
- Limit the guests to specific areas of the house – don't forget to include a bathroom
- Do not let guests come and go as they could be going out to use alcohol or drugs
- Parents should always be present to help during the party. Consider inviting other parents to help
- Have a good supply of snacks and canned/bottled beverages on hand. Parents can be the go-fors to keep things running smoothly



If things get out of hand, call the police immediately. This includes:

- ☑ **fighting**
- ☑ **drugs**
- ☑ **alcohol**
- ☑ **rowdy behaviour**

### A DRINKING CONTRACT FOR LIFE BETWEEN PARENT AND TEENAGER

#### Teenager

I agree to call you for advice and/or transportation at any hour, from any place, if I am ever in a situation where I have been drinking or a friend or date that is driving me has been drinking. I expect we would discuss this issue at a later time.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Teenager*

#### Parent

I agree to come and get you at any hour, any place, no questions asked and no argument at that time, or I will pay for a taxi to bring you home safely. I expect we would discuss this issue at a later time.

I agree to call you for advice and/or transportation at any hour, from any place, if I am ever in a situation where I have been drinking or a friend or date that is driving me has been drinking.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent*

The Ontario Federation of  
Home and School  
Associations

Parents,  
Teens  
& Parties



51 Stuart Street  
Hamilton ON L8L 1B5  
905-308-9563  
info@ofhsa.on.ca  
www.ofhsa.on.ca