



**Underage drinking is hazardous
to the health and safety of those under 21.
It is also illegal.**

Legally:

- As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.
- You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

If you break the law:

- You can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.
- Others can sue you if you allow anyone under 21 to consume alcohol and they, in turn, hurt someone or damage property.
- Officers can confiscate any alcohol, money or property used in committing the offense.

Did you know?

- 90% of adults addicted to alcohol started drinking before age 18.
- Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage – possibly permanent – and impairs brain function.
- Teen girls who binge drink are 63% more likely to get pregnant in their teen years.
- One third of teens have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol or using drugs while a parent was present.

As a parent:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Be home when your teen has a party.
- Make sure alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends.
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at events your child attends.
- Report underage drinking to local law enforcement.

As a host:

- Help plan the party and invite only a specific number of people.
- Don't send e-mail/Facebook invitations; they can be forwarded quickly.
- Set a start and end time; include your phone number and welcome calls from parents.
- Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages. If teens leave, they cannot return.
- Plan some activities such as music, games, movies, etc.
- If a teen arrives under the influence or with alcohol, call their parents. If unavailable, keep the teen there or call the police. You can be civilly liable if you know they have been drinking and you let them leave.

When you're away from home or out of town:

- Do not allow teens to have unsupervised parties or gatherings.
- Remind teens of the consequences of their actions.
- Have a responsible adult stay at your home while you are away or have your teen stay with a responsible adult.
- Notify local law enforcement that you are out of town and request additional patrol. Tell your teen that you have taken this step.

If your teen is attending a party:

- Call to make sure there will be adult supervision and no alcohol. Confirm the location.
- Find out how many teens are expected and offer to help.
- Ask how the host will handle a guest showing up with alcohol.
- Set a curfew and have your teen check in.
- Know how your teen is getting to and from the party. Reinforce the dangers of drinking and driving.
- Stress that your teen can call you to be picked up whenever needed.

Recovery Resources

Since 1955, Recovery Resources has helped people triumph over mental illness, alcoholism, drug and other addictions. We are one of the largest behavioral healthcare nonprofits in Northeast Ohio, providing outpatient mental health, alcohol and drug addiction treatment, and education and prevention services. We specialize in programs for adolescents, women and families, those with HIV/AIDS, and those re-entering the community after incarceration. Recovery Resources is nationally accredited by CARF, and dually certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. For more information, visit www.recres.org, friend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, or call 216.431.4131.