Safe Party Suggestions for Parents and Teens

If you and your teen are giving a party

- Help plan the party. Make an invitation only guest list and have a limit on the amount of guests allowed. No “open party” invites. No extra guests of invitees.

- Don’t send e-mail invitations or announce the party on social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace or Twitter. These types of invites can spread very quickly to uninvited guests.

- Give your phone number to other parents or on the invites. Encourage them to call. Invite other parents to help chaperone if there is a large number of teenagers.

- Set rules ahead of time such as no alcohol, drugs or tobacco. Also set a firm start and finish time for the party.

- Let attendees know that if they leave, they can’t come back. Limit the party access to a certain area of the house/property.

- Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.

- Plan some activities such as music, games, movies, etc.

- Let your neighbors know in advance there will be a party and that you will be there to supervise. Familiarize yourself with the noise ordinance in your area.

- Have a plan for dealing with vehicles. Include parking information on your party invitation.

- Call parents of any teen who arrives in possession of alcohol or under the influence. If you can’t get in touch with the parents, keep the teen there or call the police if necessary. You can be civilly liable if you know they have been drinking and you let them leave.

- Secure all forms of alcohol, firearms and other potentially hazardous items in your home in a safe place. Also secure any valuable items.

- Make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area with sensitivity to teens’ needs for privacy and independence.

- Do not allow underage youth to have unsupervised parties or gatherings.
When you’re away from home or out of town

- Set and communicate rules and standards to be followed in your absence. Don’t allow friends, guests or sleepovers in the house while you are gone.
- Remind them of their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.
- Have a relative or responsible adult stay at your home during your absence, have your teenager stay with a responsible adult. Ask a trusted neighbor to watch the house and stop in while you are gone.
- You can call your local police and ask them to drive by at some point over the time you are gone. Make it a point to tell your child that you have asked the police to do this.

If your teen is attending a party

- Know where your child will be. Call the parent in charge to verify the occasion and location of the party and ensure there will be adult supervision.
- Ask how many teens are expected at the party and offer to help supervise
- Make certain that the host will not be serving or allowing alcohol. Ask how they plan to handle the situation if a teen shows up with alcohol or has been drinking.
- Indicate your expectations to your child and the parent hosting the party that if the teens leave and go somewhere else, you will want to know.
- Set a curfew for your teen to be home and when they arrive home, have them check in with you in person not via phone call or text message.
- Know how your child is getting to and from the party. Reinforce the message to your teenager that they should never allow someone who has been drinking or using other drugs to drive them anywhere.
- Assure your child that they can telephone you to be picked up whenever needed.
- If the activity seems inappropriate, express concern and keep your child home.

Other ideas

- Get to know your children’s friends and their parents. Meet them in person.
- Find out their knowledge of alcohol, drug and tobacco products. Educate them.
- Remember, it is illegal to serve minors, or to knowingly allow a minor to have alcohol on your property.
- Encourage alcohol-free and drug-free parties and activities for underage youth.
Questions

• Please contact your School Resource Officers with any questions. They are as follows:

Beckman High School
Officer F. Jahid
fjahid@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7184

Creekside High School/ Southlake Middle School
Officer J. Russell
jrussell@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7251

Irvine High School/ Venado Middle School
Officer E. Robinson
erobinson@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7239

Northwood High School/ Sierra Vista Middle School
Officer K. Wiebe
kwiebe@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7181

University High School/ Rancho Middle School
Officer S. Holloway
jholloway@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7050

Woodbridge High School/ Lakeside Middle School
Officer M. Frei
mfrei@ci.irvine.ca.us
(949) 724-7275