




PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST

Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

A program of the Drug-Free Action Alliance.

It's A Party... And You're Invited!

TO LEARN ABOUT PARTIES, TEENS, AND THE LAW

Tips for Hosting a Teen Party:

- Be home for the party and monitor it.
- Lock up your alcohol.
- Make sure your guests stay at the party and go home before curfew.
- Do not permit guests to leave the party and return.

If you leave your teen home and go out of town:

- Give your local police department permission to check your house for parties and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

Q: Can I allow underage youth to drink at my house if I don't let them drive?

- A: You cannot give alcohol to your child's friends, under the age of 21, under any circumstances – not in your own home, not with their parent's permission. If you do, you may face both criminal and civil liabilities:
- * A maximum sentence of 6 months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
 - * Civil action if the minor gets hurt, hurts someone else, or damages property.
 - * Police can take possession of alcohol, money or property that was used in committing the offense.

Q: If I'm not home and teens are drinking at my house, am I still liable?

- A: Parents can be held civilly liable when courts determine they should have known, even if they did not see a youth drinking, or even if they were not home at the time of the party. Parents are liable when the injury committed by the child is the foreseeable consequence of a parent's negligent act.

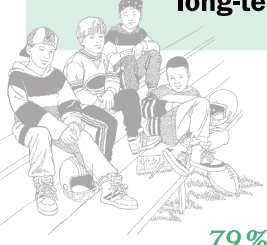


Two out of three teens say it is easy to get alcohol from their home without parents knowing about it.¹

Party Time:

YOUR TEEN OUT AND ABOUT

Don't accept drinking, tobacco or drug use as normal "rites of passage" for teens. These illegal behaviors can have long-term effects.



79% of area high school seniors report that they have used alcohol, and that they started at an average age of 14.3 years old.²

Area alcohol-related car crashes for underage drivers increased from 8% of all crashes to 14% between 2003 and 2004.²

In the past 30 days, area teens report that: 18% of 8th graders, 34% of 10th graders, and 53% of 12th graders have used alcohol.²



Youth who first drank alcohol before age 15 were more than five times as likely to report alcohol dependence or abuse in the past year than those who first drank at age 21 or older.³

Curfews:

YES, WE HAVE THEM!

Bainbridge/Bentleyville/Chagrin Falls curfews, 7 days a week:

- Under 16 years of age: 11 pm – 6am
- Under 18 years of age: 1 am – 6am

For more listings of local curfews, see www.cp4y.org

Tips for Your Teen Out and About:

- Sleepovers, even with only one friend, are often the time youth start experimenting with alcohol. Don't permit co-ed sleepovers.
- Develop a code with your child so that if s/he is uncomfortable or feels unsafe somewhere, s/he can call you and be picked up.



Q: How can police break up a teen party?

A: Police can call on a home for noise or parking violations. Police cannot enter a home unless the homeowner or a resident lets them in, except where medical assistance is necessary. Police can check license plates of the cars at a party and notify parents/owners of those vehicles. Parties can be reported to police anonymously.

Q: What happens if police are called to a party with underage drinking but my child is not drinking?

A: Even if s/he's not drinking, an underage youth at a party with alcohol can be charged with possession. If s/he cooperates with police, charges are much less likely.

Q: How do police determine if a minor has been drinking?

A: Police use several indicators: slurred speech, red, glossy eyes, alcohol on breath, field sobriety tests, the minor's admission, or a witnesses' statement. A breathalyzer is not required because any amount of alcohol is illegal.

Q: What is the legal alcohol limit for a minor to be charged with underage consumption?

A: There is no legal limit; any amount of alcohol is illegal. Those who are in a car or at a party with alcohol, whether it's in opened or closed containers, are considered to be in possession. Possession and consumption carry the same penalties in Ohio.

Q: What happens if a teen is charged with underage consumption?

A: The teen may be eligible for the court Diversion program, which allows him/her to avoid going before a judge. Eligibility for Diversion is influenced by many factors including: youth/parent attitude and cooperation, blood-alcohol level, and/or the amount of alcohol in possession. Youth may be required to receive drug /alcohol treatment and do community service.

If the teen is not eligible for Diversion, the court may suspend his/her driver's license (up to age 21), impose fines and court costs, and/or require participation in a drug/alcohol prevention program. If the teen is over age 18, he/she will be tried in adult court.

Q: Will an underage alcohol violation go on my minor child's permanent record?

A: Two years after all court orders have been completed, juvenile records are eligible for sealing: records remain intact and are only accessible by the juvenile court in very limited circumstances under court order. The military requires recruits to sign a waiver to release juvenile records. If a case is dismissed, all records are destroyed / expunged.

Q: Why do communities have curfews?

A: To keep minors off the street and deter unlawful activity. They also give police "probable cause" to stop minors who are out late at night. Curfews give parents an excuse for having minors home at a reasonable time.

Q: What is a curfew violation?

A: A minor is violating curfew if s/he is sitting in or driving in a car or outside after the specified time, without a parent or legal guardian. Exceptions are made for school functions that end after curfew.

Q: What are the consequences of a curfew violation?

A: The minor may be taken into police custody. Parents will then be contacted.

Teens whose parents talk to them regularly about alcohol and other drugs are 42% less likely to use them than those whose parents don't.²

¹ American Medical Association, 2005

² Communities that Care Survey, 2005 survey of all Geauga County high schools, including Chagrin Falls

³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2004