Safe Teenage Parties

Parties are a large part of our teenagers life. As parents, watching our children celebrate milestones and socialising is a celebration in itself.

- What do I do when my teenager wants to have a party?
- Should I supervise the party?
- Should I allow alcohol to be available?
- What are my obligations and responsibilities to other parents?

Families have varying attitudes to teenage partying. Open communication between parents is encouraged. This is particularly relevant in relation to supervision and the provision of alcohol.

In South Australia, it is not illegal to supply alcohol to young people under 18 in a private residence. However, there is still a Duty of Care responsibility on the adult host/s of teenage parties to ensure the safety of all those attending.

Hosting a party

When planning a teenage celebration consider what you need to have in place to have a safe and enjoyable party.

- Written, personal invitations should be made indicating that the party is for invited guests only and presentation of the invitation is required on arrival.
- Don’t promote your party on social media or via text, or use the internet to send out invitations.
- All invitations should include information about the start and finish times for the function, your name and contact details as the party host/s and an RSVP date.
- As the party host you are responsible to inform the parents of the teenagers attending whether alcohol will be served or allowed.

*Note: For health reasons, recent research suggests that young people under 18 years of age should avoid alcohol. For this reason and others, some parents decide not to supply or allow alcohol.*

- Make sure soft drinks are available for guests, avoid having a punch bowl which can easily be spiked and provide plenty of food.
- Be open to parents contacting you and asking you to clarify details such as the level of adult supervision and other security arrangements, whether alcohol will be provided/allowed and the number of guests invited.
**Gatecrashers and security**

- If you are concerned about security, restrict the guest list.
- Complete a Party Safe Notification Form available at [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au) and return it to the police station nearest to where the party is being held one week prior to the event.
- Phone police if gatecrashers arrive.

**Attending a party**

When your teenager is invited to a party, it is important to openly discuss issues regarding their safety.

*Discuss with your teenager:*

- Drop off and pick up times and arrangements (which may include introducing yourself to the host/s on arrival).
- Options and strategies in case they find themselves in an unsafe and uncomfortable situation.

*Before accepting an invitation*

Contact the adult host/s and seek clarification on details such as:

- Number of guests?
- Commencement and finishing times?
- Will there be adult supervision?
- Is food being provided?
- Will alcohol be present? If so, will it be provided or allowed?
- Phone number of a responsible adult attending the party.

These useful websites include information on the National Alcohol guidelines, fact sheets about adolescents and alcohol and information about your legal responsibilities.


February 2017