

## WHEN YOUR TEEN IS ATTENDING A PARTY...

### 1. Call the parent of the host/hostess to:

- Verify the occasion.
- Be sure that an adult will be present.
- Be certain that there will be no alcohol or other drugs permitted.
- Offer assistance.

### 2. Know where your teen will be:

- Have the address and phone number to the house with the party.
- Let your teen know that you will expect a phone call if the location of the party is changed.

### 3. Know how your teen will get to and from the party:

- Assure your teen that you or a specified neighbor or friend can be called if he/she needs a ride home.
- Discuss with your teen the possible problem situations which might necessitate such a phone call.
- If you are not going to be home, let your teen know where you can be reached.

### 4. Be sure your teen knows when he/she is to be home:

- Prior to the event, make sure that your expectations are understood.

### 5. Be awake or have your teen awaken you when he/she arrives home:

- This can be a good way to check the time as well as a way to talk about the evening.

### 6. If you teen is staying overnight with a friend following a party, check with the parents of the friend beforehand to verify that:

- This is acceptable to them.
- They will be home.
- You both agree on curfew hours.

- Let your teen know your expectations of him/her.
- Help your teen understand your philosophy of non-alcoholic and non-drug parties.

**6. PLAN TO HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AVAILABLE:**

- Food preparation can also be an important part of the fun, such as making popcorn, toasting marshmallows, making pizzas or subs.

**7. GRADUATION PARTIES:**

- These parties require special planning because of the unusual mix of ages and relationships. Some families find a brunch works well, as alcohol would not be expected at this time of day. (Many parents have wisely decided to serve no alcohol at parties given for teenagers even if adults attend them.)

**8. SOME OTHER IDEAS:**

- Get to know your teen's friends and their parents.
- Many parties occur spontaneously. When they do, it is recommended that the above guidelines be applied.
- If, despite your precautions, things get out of hand, do not hesitate to call the police department for assistance.

**HOMES WHERE PARENTS ARE ABSENT ARE FREQUENTLY PARTY SITES!!!**

- If it is imperative that you be out of town, have a friend or relative live in while you are away, or have your teen stay with a friend's family.
- Tell neighbors about your plans, and if they notice anything suspicious to call the police.
- Encourage your teen not to tell his/her friends that you are out of town.
- Ask friends and neighbors to monitor your house.

**Reference: Wilmes, D. (1988). Parenting for Prevention. Minneapolis: Johnson Institute.**