PARENTS: KNOW THE FACTS

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. A survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found one-third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Drug Free Action Alliance has developed *Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* to provide you with information about the health risks associated with underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth.

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 also cannot allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol. There are legal consequences if you do. According to Ohio law, you can be prosecuted and face up to six months in jail, a $1,000 fine, loss of property, and civil liability.

Simply taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, six or more youth under 21 die each day due to non-driving alcohol-related causes, such as homicide, suicide and drowning.

You can protect your children by following these guidelines when hosting teen parties:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property
- Be at home when your teenager has a party
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events
- Report underage drinking

Follow these guidelines when allowing your teen to attend another students party:

- Call the parent in charge to verify the occasion and location of the party and ensure there will be adult supervision
- Make certain that the host will not be serving or allowing alcohol
- If the activity seems inappropriate, express concern and keep your child home

Our youth deserve to live and grow to adulthood in an environment where alcohol is not misused. Let's be unified in our message, and host alcohol-free parties with fun and healthy activities to show our youth that we care about their future.

More information about *Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* and Drug Free Action Alliance is available at www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

DFAA Drug Free Action Alliance

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