

PARENTS GUIDE TO TEEN PARTIES



There are many pressures drawing youth to the use of cigarettes, alcohol and other harmful drugs. The strongest pressures on the young adults are social/societal (including advertising & media) and the need for group acceptance. Many parents and their teenagers talk about appropriate guidelines in this area, yet continue to feel helpless. Some parents, wanting their teenagers to belong to a group, serve alcohol at parties to their teenagers and friends. When parents work together, the pres-

sure to serve or allow the use of illegal beverages, tobacco and other drugs will be significantly reduced. Don't fall prey to the teen tactic, "But all the other parents let their kids do it." Review the following guidelines and discuss them with your family and friends. Communicate what standards you expect to be followed. Support one another within families and from family to family.

WHEN YOUR TEEN IS ATTENDING A PARTY

- Know where your teenager will be.
- Personally contact parents of the party giver.
- Be certain that alcohol, tobacco and other drugs will not be permitted.
- Agree beforehand on a curfew.
- Know how your teenager will get to and from the party.
- Personally check with parents. If your child stays overnight with a friend after the party.
- If your teenager attends a party where alcohol, tobacco and other drugs were served by parents or allowed, it is important to:
 - Phone and discuss your disapproval with the parents.
 - Discuss the illegal ramifications with them.
 - Share notes with other parents.
 - Express thanks and support to parents and students within these guidelines.

WHEN YOUR TEEN IS GIVING A PARTY

- Plan in advance.
- Agree to the rules ahead of time.
- Know your responsibilities.
- Anyone who leaves the party should not be allowed to return.
- Welcome calls from other parents to discuss the party arrangements.
- Notify your neighbors beforehand that a party is being given and will be supervised.
- Notify police when giving a large party.
- Plan to have food and plenty of non alcoholic drink.
- Plan some activities ahead: Movies, dancing, sports, etc.
- Discuss the party afterwards.

OUR PLEDGE
To Stop Underage
Alcohol & Drug Use

INFORMED FAMILIES PLEDGE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

School your child/children attends: _____

Signature: _____

Mail this bottom portion to Informed Families. You will receive a decal in return.
WWW.INFORMEDFAMILIES.ORG