

Hosting a party

70 people turned up at my teenager's party. Only 40 were invited. The police were called. We found out later that information about the party was on the internet.

Careful planning well ahead of the party date by you and your teenager will help to make sure that parties are fun and safe. Consider some of the tips below.

- Decide how long the party will go for and if some areas are to be off limits.
- Send personal invitations to guests.
- 'Party proof' your house. Lock away valuables and items that may easily be broken.
- Let the neighbours know about the party.
- Enlist the help of friends and older family members to set up the party and supervise.
- Organise party activities to introduce a fun element and take the emphasis away from drinking.
- Let the local police know that you are having a party.
- Make plans in case someone becomes intoxicated, sick or there is an emergency situation.

As the host parent you should be aware about the law on supplying alcohol to minors. (Refer to section: *Alcohol, young people and the law*). Consider:

- is there going to be alcohol? If so, do not serve alcohol to people under the age of 18
- what you will do if people under the age of 18 bring alcohol to the party or others want to supply them alcohol? Will they be asked to leave? Will the alcohol be confiscated and given to their parents after the party?
- making sure there are plenty of non-alcoholic drinks, water and food available
- having a plan for how you will respond if guests arrive intoxicated or bring alcohol and other drugs.

For more information about hosting parties you might like to look at the websites listed on the page, *Going to a party*.

This publication is intended as a guide only. The contents do not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Persons wishing formal advice on matters referred to in this publication should consult their solicitor.

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