

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, and even with their parent's permission. You also cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

Your house is NOT a "safe place" for teens to drink. Providing alcohol to minors at your house puts the youth, your property and yourself at GREAT risk. You can be held personally responsible and sued for anything that happens as a result of giving alcohol to minors or knowingly allowing minors to drink on your property. Many homeowner insurance policies don't cover damage or injury caused by underage drinking.

Check out BNParents.org for tips, signs of concern and resources to assist you in conversations with your teen.

When you talk to your teen about alcohol...

Parents **Make a Difference.**

bnparents.org

Alcohol.

Had the talk?

bnparents.org

Our Community

Alcohol use is very common in our society. Because it is sold and consumed in so many places, we often forget how risky drinking can be for young people. Please do not underestimate how dangerous alcohol can be for teens and young adults. Alcohol kills more teens and young adults than all other illegal drugs combined and negatively affects lives in dozens of ways.

Three ways to *lower the risk*
of youth alcohol problems in
families and communities.

1. Know the Law and Share this Knowledge with Others

Illinois has strict laws against underage drinking:

- It is illegal to purchase alcohol for a minor. Purchasers could face jail time and fines.
- It is illegal for anyone under 21 to possess or consume alcohol. Minors can be fined and subsequent violations are punishable by jail time.
- It is illegal to host or knowingly allow underage drinking in your home.

2. Limit Youth Access to Alcohol

You can lower your children's risk of drinking by limiting their access to alcohol and setting a positive example:

- Refuse to give or buy alcohol for your children.
- Check in with your teen before and after they go out.
- Lock up any alcohol in your home and make sure you monitor the quantity.
- Stay at home when your child hosts a party.
- Talk to other parents about not having alcohol at parties to which your child and other minors are invited.
- Plan activities in your home that are alcohol-free.
- Report underage drinking to the police. If you know of a party coming up, contact your local law enforcement agency with the name, address, and date of the party. This can be done anonymously and names will be kept confidential.

3. Talk With Your Teen

- Frequently talk with AND LISTEN to your teen about how things are going in their life. Try to find time to talk and really connect with them every day.
- Use "teachable moments" to raise alcohol issues. Use public service announcements, stories on the news, TV plot lines, pop culture or current issues at school or in the community to spur on conversation.
- Let your teen know you disapprove of any youth use of alcohol. Most youth (83% of surveyed youth ages 10-18 years old) cite parents as the leading influence in their decision to not drink at all, or not to drink on occasion.
- Be clear and focus on the risks of alcohol use on your teen's health and safety. Let your teen know you love them and don't want anything bad to happen to them.