Consequences

It can be VERY Expensive

- It's illegal to host a party where minors drink alcohol, or even allow teen drinking in your home. You could receive a $1,000 fine.
- Your homeowners insurance may increase. The company may even drop you. Most policies don't cover damage or theft from underage drinking parties.
- If an underage party-goer drives after drinking it will cost you. If there is a crash, just add zeros. If your car is damaged or if you submit a claim on your insurance policy, get ready to pay out again—if you're lucky enough to keep your policy. And if the driver is a teen, he or she will lose the privilege to drive.
- You will be held civilly liable if sued by another parent. Injuries, alcohol poisoning, or sexual assault may result in law suits. And you may be held responsible even if you weren't home, or didn't know about the party!

I applaud the efforts of the organizers of this campaign to prevent underage drinking in Montgomery County. The 301-670-SAFE phone umber is a new and welcome resource for parents of teenagers. By making one simple phone call, parents can find out what their responsibilities are and get answers to any questions they may have relating to setting guidelines for their teenagers to follow when hosting or attending parties.

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

The following partners agree, it is illegal and unhealthy for anyone under 21 to drink alcohol.

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SECTION
240-777-1917

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Drawing the Line
Drawing the Line on Underage Alcohol Use

MCPS
Montgomery County Public Schools

MADD®

Montgomery County Highway Safety Office

Montgomery County RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Adopted from Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth Program

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST™

Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

It's against the law.

301-670-SAFE

Montgomery County Police Party Information Line

YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN FOOD, DRINKS, AND MUSIC FOR AN UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY

Your Common Sense

– ***This party*** – Is it Worth It?

- Teens can lose their acceptance to colleges and/or scholarships if something happens.
- A *party house* can devalue your property and your neighborhood.
- You must be a responsible parent and a good role model by teaching the value of respect of friends and neighbors.

Your Health

– It's Sickening

- The list of severe and often tragic consequences related to underage drinking is remarkable: fatal car crashes, rape, unwanted pregnancy, suicide, homicide, academic failure, vandalism, alcohol poisoning, alcoholism, and more.
- Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage—possibly permanent—and impairs intellectual development.
- People who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21. Each additional year of delayed drinking onset reduces the probability of alcohol dependence by 14 percent.
- Underage persons who reported binge drinking* were 7 times more likely to report illicit drugs during the past month than underage persons who did not binge drink.

*consuming five or more drinks in a row on a single occasion

Planning a Party

- Plan the party with your teen. Make a guest list and limit the number of attendees.
- Personal invitations are best to avoid an "open party" situation. Do NOT e-mail invitations because they can be forwarded.
- Put your phone number on the invitation and welcome calls from parents. Invite other parents to help during the party and provide additional supervision.
- Develop rules ahead of time and be clear: ***no alcohol, drugs or tobacco.***

The Party is on…

- Limit party access to a specified area of the home and let friends know that if they leave, they cannot come back.
- Have plenty of food and soft drinks and don't be afraid to make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area.
- Check the backpacks and jackets of all attendees. Put all belongings in one area that is supervised by an adult and is only accessible when the guests arrive and leave.

Call 301-670-SAFE for more information on hosting an alcohol-free teen party.

Call 301-279-8000 if the party becomes dangerous.

Before you vacation

- Set and communicate clear rules to be followed in your absence including no parties or gatherings while you're gone and ***BE DIRECT*** about your expectations and the consequences of your child's actions.
- Give your teen the phone numbers of several adults to call in case of an emergency and contact your local police agency to check your property during routine patrols.
- Notify neighbors to keep an eye out.

If your teen is attending a party

- Call the parent host to verify the occasion and location of the party, and ensure there will be appropriate supervision and no alcohol.
- Know how your child is getting to and from the party. Reinforce the message that he or she should never drink or allow someone who has been drinking or using other drugs to drive them anywhere anytime.

BE AWARE WHEN YOUR TEEN ARRIVES HOME. Kissing your child goodnight IS THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO WAS PRESENT.