

## What parents can do to stop UNDERAGE DRINKING...

Talk with your teen and let him or her know your expectations. Teens need clear behavior guidelines and boundaries. **1**

**2** Ask questions about your teen's daily life. Listen to his or her opinions and concerns.

Talk with your teen. Get to know your teen's friends and who their parents are. Always know what your teen is doing and who he or she is with. **3**

**4** Have your teen check in with you regularly from a landline phone, not a cell phone. If they are at a friend's house or attending a party, call or stop by to check on them.

Tell your teen that even if he or she is some place where adults are drinking, they are NOT to drink under any circumstances. **5**

**6** Spend time on a regular basis with your teen doing one-on-one or family activities.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information about talking to your teen about underage drinking, there are many resources available:

<http://www.notnrhouse.org>  
<http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org>  
<http://stopalcoholabuse.gov>  
<http://alcoholpolicymd.com>  
<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov>

Your local resource is:



**DON'T INVITE TROUBLE INTO YOUR HOUSE...**

What every parent needs to know about

**UNDERAGE DRINKING & SOCIAL HOSTING**



A program of  
Kansas Family Partnership  
5942 SW 29th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66614  
785-266-6161 or 1-800-206-7231

For more information, visit  
[www.KansasFamily.org](http://www.KansasFamily.org).

## What is SOCIAL HOSTING?

Social Hosting is providing and/or serving alcohol to a young person who is under age 21. Hosting can take place in a party-like atmosphere or anytime someone provides alcohol to young people and their friends for the purpose of drinking. It can even extend to parents and homeowners who are not home, out-of-town, or unaware that underage drinking is taking place in their home.

## What PARENTS should know

If you host a party for underage drinkers, you are sending a message to teens that it is okay to break the law. The question is, which laws do you decide can be broken? You may think you are doing teens a favor by allowing them to drink in a safe environment. The truth is there is no safe environment for underage drinking.

As a host, you can't predict the behavior of teens drinking in your home or the amount of alcohol consumed. If injuries, alcohol poisoning, or sexual assaults occur on your property, you can be held criminally liable.

## THE PENALTIES

**Unlawfully hosting minors who are consuming alcohol or cereal malt beverage is a Class A person misdemeanor and carries a minimum fine of \$1000.**

## PAUL'S STORY ...

**In 2001, 17-year old Paul Riggs was killed while returning home from a party at a friend's house. The friend's parents had been home but did not monitor the party at which alcohol was served. Paul died after crashing into a tree---only blocks from his house---as he drove home that night.**

**His friend's parents told police that they didn't know alcohol was being served in their home. Later, police charged their daughter with furnishing alcohol to a minor. The parents and daughter could not be penalized because there was no law in place.**

**Kansas passed a Social Host Law, also known as "Paul's Law," that became effective July 1, 2004. In 2006, the Kansas Legislature strengthened the law by designating it a Class A person misdemeanor and increased the minimum fine from \$200 to \$1000.**

## Teens and their HEALTH

The brain goes through dynamic changes during adolescence. Studies have shown that judgment is the last area of the brain to develop. A person who begins drinking as a teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to consume alcohol.

Teens who drink alcohol are more likely to become sexually active, placing them at greater risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. Short-term or moderate drinking impairs learning and memory in teens. Teens only need to drink half as much alcohol as adults to suffer the same negative effects.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Harmful Consequences of Alcohol Use on the Brains of Children, Adolescents, and College Students.* American Medical Association, 2004

## Promote RESPONSIBILITY

What happens in your home affects the community. Teens naturally want adult privileges. Our job as parents and guardians is to make them understand that alcohol is a drug and consuming it as a teen is harmful to their health and well-being. It is also illegal for the teens to consume it and for adults to provide it.

Parents and other adults need to remember that they are the greatest influence on the decisions teens make. Parents also bear the primary responsibility for their teen's misconduct.

**Not In Our House** is a nationwide initiative on underage drinking and social hosting. The Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, a program of Kansas Family Partnership, Inc., has partnered on the campaign with the International Institute on Alcohol Awareness, The Century Council and Scholastic.