

Tips for Hosting a Safe Party

–In Montgomery County, parents may be subject to heavy fines if there has been any underage drinking on their premises. See next page for detailed information.–

Planning the Party

1. Before anyone is invited, set a limit for how many guests you will allow, and set specific start and end times for the party. If guests do not drive, consider requesting that their parents come to the door at pick-up time. Also, discuss with your child your rules and expectations for the party, as well as any consequences (i.e., you will phone the parents of anyone who does not follow the rules of your home; guests will not be allowed to return after leaving the party). Determine which areas of your home will be considered off limits to guests.
2. Once your child has agreed to your limits and rules, s/he may create the guest list, and must share it with you.
3. Arrange to have chaperones. One adult for every ten teenagers is best.
4. In advance of the party, be sure no alcohol or drugs (prescription or otherwise) will be visible or accessible during the event.

During the Party

1. Use only one entrance/exit, with a chaperone nearby throughout the party. Ensure that other entrances are inaccessible – preferably, with a chaperone at each. Keep in mind that kids may leave alcohol and/or other drugs stashed outside or in their cars, to access them during the party through an entry out of chaperones' sight. Also, additional or uninvited guests may attempt to enter the home at other entry points; some guests may choose to leave and/or re-enter through other entrances.
2. The chaperone stationed by the entrance/exit should check that all arriving guests are on the guest list, and should not allow uninvited guests to enter. Be prepared to call police if uninvited guests refuse to leave and/or attempt to enter through other areas of the home.
3. Upon arrival, all guests should leave backpacks, purses and other bags, as well as jackets and coats, in a designated area (area should be near chaperones, so they can watch over belongings throughout the party). Do not allow guests to bring their own cans and bottles (including water bottles) into the party.
4. Be aware that some kids may have used alcohol and other drugs before arriving. If you suspect substance use, do not allow them to enter the party, or to drive. Call their parents and do not permit them to leave, or have a sober adult drive them home. If they insist on leaving, call their parents and advise them to call their child's cell phone. Be prepared to call police, if necessary.
5. Assign a parent chaperone/s to periodically circulate through the party, to clean up and restock food and drinks (keep chip bowls and drink supply small, so that they will need refilling), while keeping an eye out for signs of trouble. If a chaperone suspects drug or alcohol use, talk with the child and call his/her parents.
6. Have a conversation with each child as he leaves. Again, if you suspect substance use, do not allow them to drive. *See number 4, above.*
7. When guests leave the home, they should not be permitted to re-enter. They may want to use alcohol or other drugs stored in their cars, or hidden outside, and come back into the party.



What is Host Responsibility?

Adult Host Responsibility is a Maryland Law that holds an adult who knowingly and intentionally serves/provides an alcoholic beverage to a person he/she knows, or reasonably should know, is under the age of 21, liable for the person served and to any other person for damages resulting from the host's service of alcohol. It can even extend to adults and homeowners who are not on the premises and/or did not provide the alcohol.

State Laws and Consequences...

- Buying¹, furnishing or allowing youth under the age of 21 to consume or possess alcohol is illegal². Adults are civilly and legally liable.
- Adults could receive a \$2500 fine for the first offense, a \$5000 fine for the second offense. (An offense counts as one under 21 drinker; additional under age drinkers can count as additional offenses.)
- Servers/sellers of alcohol to are required to protect an intoxicated person from harming themselves or others. A server will be liable if negligence is proven.
- Homeowner and auto insurance companies may drop a policy.
- Home or not home, aware or unaware of the party you could be sued for:
 - Personal Injury
 - Alcohol Poisoning
 - Sexual Assault
 - Vandalism
 - Violence
 - Car Crashes: Death, Injuries and Car Damage



What to Do:

SAFEneT: Call 301-670-SAFE (7233) for information on hosting under 21 alcohol free events or to report an upcoming under 21 alcohol party, event or provider.

To report a party in progress, call the non-emergency police number for assistance 301-279-8000. Call 911 if the party becomes dangerous or life threatening.

SAFEneT: Subscribe to SAFEneT: an online e-newsletter for alcohol related prevention information and to ask related questions. SAFEneT@montgomerycountymd.gov

For More Keeping It SAFE Materials Including Tips for...

- ✓ Hosting under 21 Parties
 - ✓ Adult Social or Individual Host
 - ✓ Corporate Hosts
 - ✓ One Day Licensed Events
 - ✓ On Sale Establishments (Restaurants)
 - ✓ Off Sale Establishments (Beer & Wine Stores)
 - ✓ Community Events
 - ✓ Special Event Planners and Promoters
- For more information contact:
 Department of Liquor Control Outreach Office
 (240) 777-1904
dlic@montgomerycountymd.gov
 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov



Adult Host Responsibility is a public education campaign brought to you by the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control. Parties include Montgomery County Department of Police, Drawing the Line on Under 21 Alcohol Use (Montgomery County Coalition, Montgomery County Sale and Drug Free Schools, Montgomery County State Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, MCTPA), and the Montgomery County Recreation Center. Paid for by a grant from the Maryland Highway Administration's Highway Safety Office. References: 1. Maryland Criminal Statute # 10-116.2. Maryland Criminal Statute # 10-117.3. State Alcohol Law Article 2A, Section 18B.



Montgomery County
KEEPING IT SAFE

Adult Host Responsibility



Montgomery County, MD
 Department of Liquor Control