

# Press Release

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## **HOUSE PARTIES AND UNDERAGE DRINKING**

GREENWICH, CT, JUNE 12, 2010: This time of year is busy for teens with graduation parties and proms. House parties are the primary source by which youth obtain alcohol. National surveys have found that the vast majority of high school teens report obtaining alcohol at their home with or without their parent's permission.

The Greenwich Police Department is reminding anyone exercising dominion of any property that you have a legal responsibility to stop anyone under the age of 21 to possess alcohol on your property. You may also be criminally and civilly responsible for any crime or injury that happens once that alcohol was consumed by anyone under the age of 21.

Some party guidelines which may help you to keep your teens safe and underage parties alcohol free:

### Parents

- Prepare your teenager for the possibility that uninvited guests may arrive when you are away. Your teen should know where to reach you, another responsible adult or the police.
- Call the parents who are hosting the party to ask them if they plan on making it an alcohol free party.
- Ask the host when the party is going to end.
- Consider saying NO to any sleep over plan.
- Be awake when your child returns home and greet them. Look out for signs of alcohol and drug use.
- Make a plan with your child to call you if they discover alcohol at a party.
- Make sure your child calls you if they plan on leaving the party to go somewhere else.

## Hosts

- Plan the activity with your teen and discuss who is invited. Have a responsible adult at the door to stick to the guest list.
- Have sufficient responsible chaperones.
- Be visible and circulate through the party often.
- No one should leave the party and then return.
- Don't allow water bottles and backpacks into the party.
- Call the parent if a teen brings alcohol.
- Establish areas of the house that are off-limits.
- Lock liquor and medicine cabinets.

## Teens

- Don't get in a car with someone who has been drinking or doing drugs. Call your parents or Safe Rides at (203)869-8445.
- Don't drink something if you are unsure of its origin/contents. There are many drinks that can be spiked with drugs that can render you unconscious.
- Stay in groups; don't let a friend walk off with someone if they have been drinking.
- If one of your friends makes a mistake, don't make it worse by leaving someone alone who may pass out. Call a responsible adult and 911 immediately if you suspect alcohol poisoning. You may be saving a life.

**C.G.S. 30-89a(a)(1)**(a) No person having possession of, or exercising DOMINION OR CONTROL over, any dwelling unit or private property shall (1) knowingly permit any minor to possess alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (b) of 30-89 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in such dwelling unit or on such private property, or (2) knowing that any minor possesses alcoholic liquor in violation of subsection (b) of section 30-89 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in such dwelling unit or on such private property, FAIL TO MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO HALT SUCH POSSESSION. ("Minor" means a person under 21)

Sources: NIAAA, Connecticut Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking, and Parents Together.

Useful websites: <http://www.preventionworksct.org/> **and** <http://www.sadd.org/>