

Parents, did you know?

IT IS ILLEGAL TO GIVE ALCOHOL TO YOUR CHILD'S FRIENDS WHO ARE UNDER 21.

Washington Law states: "It is unlawful for any person to sell, give, or otherwise supply liquor to any person under the age of twenty-one years or permit any person under that age to consume liquor on his or her premises or on any premises under his or her control. For the purposes of this subsection, "premises" includes real property, houses, buildings, and other structures, and motor vehicles and watercraft. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor punishable as provided for in chapter 9A.20 RCW."

(RCW 66.44.270 — Furnishing liquor to minors)



NOTE TO PARENTS:

70% of 12th graders report that they thought adults would view alcohol use among kids their age as wrong or very wrong.

77% of 10th and 12th grade students think it is important to be honest with their parents even if "they get upset or you get punished."

YOU COULD BE FINANCIALLY LIABLE:

- If an unchaperoned party takes place at your home where underage drinking or drug use occurs. "But I wasn't home!" will not work. Under negligent supervision you can be held responsible.
- If intentional acts such as vandalism, date rape, fist fights, even possibly the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases occur on your property. There is no insurance coverage for such actions.
- If your son or daughter is on your auto insurance and he/she is driving when police find alcohol in the car.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Whether you have insurance or not, you are still responsible for the behavior of your son/daughter.
- Claiming "not knowing" of your son/daughter's involvement is not a defense.
- You and your son/daughter can be held liable for up to 20 years against future earnings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If your child is not attending a school-sponsored alcohol free activity, it is important that you monitor your teen's activities.

1. Talk to your teen about the legal and civil liability that you and your teen face when they make bad choices.
2. Call the parents who are hosting the party to ask if they will be chaperoning and if they are committed to not allowing alcohol or other drugs there.
3. Discuss with your teen what to do if there is alcohol at a party.
4. Make sure your teen knows he/she can call you **any time** to be picked up. Guarantee they will not be lectured or criticized. You just want them to be safe.
5. When invited to drink, encourage responses such as: "No thanks, I really don't like it." "If my parents find out, they'll ground me for life." "I don't like to lose control."
6. Offer to host the party at your home with plenty of pizza and soft drinks.
7. If your teen is taking a change of clothing to use after the dance, be extra cautious.



Washington State
Liquor Control Board

www.liq.wa.gov/education.asp

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BEFORE THEY
START DRINKING**
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