



FOUNDED 1846

## ***Safe Partying***

### **Some Guidelines for Teenage Parties**

Parents will often face the issue of their child wanting to attend or organise a party. Due to the significance of this type of event there is always the potential for disputes to develop as all too often there is little focus on the wider aspects of what can happen during a party. Launceston Church Grammar School cannot, and does not, take any responsibility for or endorse private parties organised by parents or students, even if prior to, or following of a School function or to celebrate other School events. In particular the School does not condone the provision of alcohol to children under 18 years of age. The School promotes living a healthy lifestyle. Relevant information is delivered through structured Health, Physical Education and Pastoral programmes.

Notwithstanding the above, the School acknowledges a social responsibility to provide some general assistance in terms of guidelines to help ensure an organised party can be a success for all.

The guidelines set down below are gleaned from discussions with other schools as well as advice from the Police Tasmania. The Police also point out that regardless of the amount of pre-planning involved, there is always the chance that any party can get out of control. They therefore are supportive of any requests for advice, or even input into, the organisation of the event. You can contact your local Police Station, or the Police Tasmania website - [www.police.tas.gov.au](http://www.police.tas.gov.au)

The following websites also offer good advice and ideas for safe partying:  
[www.partysafetas.org/](http://www.partysafetas.org/) and [www.iparty.com.au/](http://www.iparty.com.au/).

## **What is the Law for the supply of alcohol to youths under 18 years of age?**

Parents need to be aware of their responsibilities under the 'Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Youths legislation in Tasmania.

Under Tasmania's Police Offences Act 1935 (amended 2009) - it is illegal to supply alcohol to people aged under 18 years in a private home unless it is supplied by:

- a parent, adult with parental rights and responsibilities, or
- an adult who has the approval of the child's parent or guardian.

However, if the supply of this alcohol is not accompanied with 'responsible supervision', the supplier may still be prosecuted.

Fines of up to \$12 000 or a jail term of up to 12 months may be incurred for offences that are deemed more serious. Fines for lesser offences may be imposed by infringement notice.

### **Responsible supervision**

In Queensland, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory it is illegal to supply people under the age of 18 with alcohol if responsible supervision is not provided.

Responsible supervision is generally determined by:

- whether the adult was drunk
- whether the child was drunk
- the age of the child
- the amount of alcohol consumed by the child and over what period of time
- whether the child consumed food with the liquor
- how the child was supervised.

Source: <http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/fact-sheets/what-is-secondary-supply-web-fact-sheet>

# Guidelines for parents to minimise risks associated with parties.

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## 1. Attending a Party

One of the most important things in successfully running teenage parties is when all parents take an active interest in the various arrangements for the party. Parents should feel comfortable in phoning the host(s) to discuss the various arrangements for the party and talk about expectations so that everyone has a clear understanding. This co-operation between families can make a big difference in reducing any anxieties felt beforehand. Some questions parents can ask include:

- who is the person responsible for the party
- whether your teenager is invited;
- the number of expected guests and the level of adult supervision;
- security arrangements if applicable;
- the serving of/or the permitting of alcohol at the party;
- the commencement and finishing time of the party;
- transport arrangements.

Some other things to consider include:

- Drive your teenager to the party and introduce yourself to the host and the host's parents.
- You may wish to take the opportunity to see the venue, determine the level of adult supervision, the presence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs, the age of the guests, familiar faces, check the pick up time with the hosts and confirm this time with your teenager before leaving the party.
- Ensure that your child has your contact phone number during the party and that this number is accessible.
- Confirm pick up and transport arrangements.
- Impact on neighbours.

## **2. Hosting a Party**

Most parties that go wrong are poorly planned, disorganised, non-structured, or they become chaotic and/or out of control. This is when the wrong signals are sent out and when trouble starts. Parents who want to have a safe and enjoyable party should plan it properly. Good planning can reduce the risk of potential problems before the party begins, saving yourselves difficulties later on.

The more structured and controlled your party is, the safer and more enjoyable it will be for everyone. For instance, have you thought of invitations, a controlled entry/exit point, non-alcoholic drink alternatives, structured timings throughout for activities (cake cutting, speeches, presents, etc), adult/parent supervisors, cleaning up as you go, dedicated finishing time, exit/transport strategy? There are a great number of things to think about, but remember, pre-planning is the best policy to make your party a great success.

Using a 'checklist', like the one on pages 5 - 8, can assist you in providing a safe environment for people at the party and save yourself the stress of having to deal with a party that has become out of control.

Talk with your child about the issues indicated above in the initial stages of planning so that he/she can understand that he/she has an important role and responsibility in organising a safe party. He/she may be aware of other parties that worked, or did not, and so can assist the planning.

### **Checklist**

We have listed some suggestions for you to consider when hosting a party. By following the advice checklists on pages 5-8, you can minimise (but not prevent) the risks and help make your party a successful, enjoyable and safe time for everyone.

## Before the Party

Will you ?	Check
<p>1. Notify the Police that you are having a party by completing the Safe Party Notification Form. This form can be downloaded from their website <a href="http://www.police.tas.gov.au/permits/other/party-safe/">www.police.tas.gov.au/permits/other/party-safe/</a> or picked up from a Police Station. The form should be lodged at the Police Station closest to the party venue at least 7 days prior to the party.</p> <p>2. Consider how the party will be advertised. Don't use the internet, SMS or e-mail distribution lists/noticeboards etc. If word of the party spreads, you will need to take extra preventative measures (ie. change of venue, more parent supervisors, hire a security guard, ask neighbours to notify you of any youths/groups congregating nearby).</p> <p>3. Keep Guest lists to a manageable size. If the guest numbers are large, ask other parents or responsible adults to assist with supervision or consider hiring security personnel.</p> <p>4. Consider numbering your invitations. Enforce an RSVP and/or the need for guests to produce their invitation at the door. Notify guests up front that you will only admit people who comply.</p> <p>5. Encourage officially invited party guests not to disseminate information about the party to other people.</p> <p>6. Personally hand out invitations and prohibit people from bringing extra friends – that way there will only be people you know and want at the party.</p> <p>7. Make sure your party has a definite start and finish time, and that these times are clearly displayed on the invitations.</p> <p>8. Contact your local council or community group regarding the hiring conditions imposed on public halls/ clubs etc if your party is to be held in a public hall or sporting facility.</p> <p>9. Visit the location beforehand and inspect it inside and out, identifying the entrance(s) and exits(s) to the facility. It is wise to avoid buildings with multiple entrances. Such venues are more prone to problems.</p>	

Will you ?	Check
<p>10. Talk to your neighbours and give them a contact number and/or name of the party host should a problem occur. Advise them of the start and finish times. Ask them to tell you if groups gather out the front or nearby.</p> <p>11. Find out about local noise regulations (contact your Local Council or Police if in doubt).</p> <p>12. Put a sign on the toilet door.</p> <p>13. Remove your own valuables</p> <p>14. Remove extra alcohol in the house.</p> <p>15. Place your guests bags in one room which can be locked for security.</p>	

## The Venue

Will you ?	Check
<p>1. Think about the party size and venue. Is your home too small?</p> <p>2. Consider a hall/function centre to be a more appropriate and controlled environment?</p> <p>3. Consider appropriate lighting (particularly any dark hidden-away areas you may have).</p> <p>4. Consider first aid? Have you planned what you are going to do if someone becomes sick or drunk?</p> <p>5. Provide sufficient toilets so people don't go outside?</p> <p>6. Provide enough garbage bins?</p> <p>7. Consider parking and nearby public amenities?</p> <p>8. Consider how many entry/exit points are there and how you will control them?</p> <p>9. Consider where will people put their valuables when they arrive and during the party? Allocate a lockable room for</p>	

valuables and close off rooms you do not want guests to use.	
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### Transport to and from the Party

Will you ?	Check
<p>1. Consider how your guests will get there and get home.</p> <p>2. Encourage parents to pick up their teenagers at the end of the party. This reduces the chances that neighbouring properties will be damaged as guests walk home.</p> <p>3. Have a dedicated exit/transport strategy to get people out of the area and safely home immediately the party finishes (ie. additional parents, shared taxi plan, courtesy bus, etc).</p> <p>4. Have taxi and bus details handy.</p> <p>5. Organise a lift or car pool.</p> <p>6. Designate a driver and ensure alternative transport for people who <b>have</b> had too much to drink.</p>	

### During the Party

Will you	Check
<p>1. Be prepared if gate crashers arrive; ie act quickly by refusing them entry and asking them to leave immediately. If they won't leave, tell them the Police will be called. Gate crashers are less likely if admittance is by invitation only. Remember, you have the right to refuse entry to your property. It is an offence for people to trespass if you have refused them entry.</p> <p>2. Have emergency numbers handy and carry your mobile phone. Don't spend all night in an area of your house away from the party (ie. in the kitchen). Consider having food pre-prepared or hiring professional caterers. This will allow you more time to supervise/mingle with your guests, and quickly deal with problems before they get out of hand.</p>	

<p>3. Ensure that food is available during the party and, if alcohol is being served to over 18 years of age, non-alcoholic drinks are also available as an alternative.</p>	
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<p>4. Locate speaker systems as far away from neighbours as possible and restrict noise after midnight. Excessive noise is most likely to be the reason that Police will be called to attend a party.</p>	
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<p>5. Structure the party – have food being served, have dedicated timings throughout for activities (cake cutting, speeches, presents etc), have numerous people supervising, clean up as you go.</p>	
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<p>6. Plan a wind-down time leading up to the finish, turning down music, upping the lights etc.</p>	
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<p>7. Make sure the family dog is secured and comfortable, to avoid excessive barking during the party.</p>	
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# Youth and alcohol

at home and on other private property



**The *Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Youths (Police Offences Act 1935)* legislation regulates the supply of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years, on private property.**

**This legislation supports a responsible approach by parents, guardians, and other adults with parental rights, who choose to supply young people with alcohol.**

What does the legislation mean?

If you supply someone under the age of 18 years with alcohol on private property, and:

- you are not the responsible adult
- do not have the permission of the responsible adult, and
- do not supply alcohol in a responsible manner

**you will be breaking the law, and may be fined or face imprisonment.**

The current National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol* advocate that there is no safe level of consumption of alcohol for anyone under 18 years.

Department of Police and Emergency Management



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### Who is a responsible adult?

**A responsible adult** is a parent, step-parent, guardian, or someone with parental rights and responsibilities for a young person. Additionally a responsible adult can also be a person who has been authorised to supply alcohol to a youth.

**Responsible supply of alcohol** means appropriately supervising consumption, ensuring food is available and limiting the quantity and type of alcohol.

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### Can I still let my teenager have an alcoholic drink at home?

Yes, if you are a responsible adult for the youth **and**

- consideration is given to the age of the youth, **and**
- neither the responsible adult nor the youth is intoxicated, **and**
- the supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of that youth, **and**
- a responsible adult is supervising the consumption of liquor, **and**
- consideration is given to the quantity, type and time period over which the liquor is supplied, **and**
- food is provided for the youth to consume with the liquor.

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### What happens if my teenager has a party or gathering at home with alcohol present?

If there is a possibility that alcohol will be consumed at the party or gathering, then you must obtain permission from the responsible adult for each of the young people. The way in which you obtain the permission is up to you: it can be written, verbal or electronic, just make sure that it is legitimate and reliable.

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### What are my responsibilities as an adult in supervising the use of alcohol at a teenage party or gathering?

As the responsible adult, in addition to gaining permission, you must supervise appropriately. You must ensure that you are not intoxicated and that the young people do not become intoxicated. You need to provide non-alcoholic drinks and food. You need to be aware of the age of the young people, and the type and quantity of alcohol being consumed.

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### What happens if an adult doesn't act responsibly?

Fines for minor offences may be imposed by infringement notice. Fines of up to \$12,000 or a jail term of up to 12 months may be incurred for more serious offences.

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[www.police.tas.gov.au](http://www.police.tas.gov.au)