

Parents' Power to Prevent Underage Drinking



YOU are the most important influence in your child's decision concerning alcohol and drug use. Begin a conversation today so your child is comfortable discussing information, sharing issues concerning friends or situations, and seeking your assistance when necessary.

According to the latest* Maryland Adolescent Survey for Frederick County Public Schools, 27% of 10th grade and 48% of 12th grade students indicated they had used alcohol in the 30 days before the survey. *2004

- Know what your child is doing.
- Set limits with clear rules and consequences for breaking them.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- Make it clear that your child can call you for a ride from a dangerous situation.

You have the power to set curfews, restrict activities or remove the driver license.

Check parties your child is attending.

Are there adults at the home?
More importantly, are they monitoring the party?
Will they allow alcohol?

Monitor parties in your home.

Lock up or remove any alcoholic beverages you have.
Have other parents help chaperone.
Greet the teens as they arrive at your home, state your rules and consequences.
Look around your property to ensure that no one has delivered alcohol before the party.
Constantly monitor the activities, walk around and talk to the teens.
Call parents if there is a problem.



You are liable for any and all activity in your home, whether you are there or not. If someone is hurt at or leaving your property because of alcohol or drugs you could lose your home and future earnings!

If your child needs treatment:
Frederick County Health Department
Substance Abuse Division
301-600-3294

Report underage drinking: 301-600-1318