

Make Prom Night Safe and Memorable

Teens look forward to prom night. Dresses, tuxes, fun hairdos, flowers and ceremonies with friends make this a night to remember. Parents are hoping that it will be a night of happy, not sad, memories



Prom involves many safety issues. Plan ahead, with your teen, weeks before prom night arrives. Then, you can spend prom evening taking pictures and sharing in the fun.

- Help your child prepare for prom. Shop for a dress or tux. Share in the excitement. Talk about safety and prom plans.
- Discuss prom night details. Say you are concerned for her health and safety.
- Meet your teen's prom party friends before prom night. Offer to host a pre or post prom dinner, party or breakfast.
- Find out how your teen will get to prom. Who is driving? Who is riding in the car? Know the names of everyone in the car. Some hire a limo for safety.
- Set a curfew based on your child's past behavior. Has he earned your trust or ignored rules and curfew? Explain your decision.
- Discuss after-prom parties. Where? Chaperones? Call the parents. Ask how they will monitor for alcohol. Some parents mistakenly allow teens to drink alcohol if they take their car keys.
- Remind your teen that drugs and underage drinking are dangerous and illegal. He could go to jail.
- Discuss date rape. Talk about peer pressure and practice saying *no*.
- Tell your teen to call if he or she needs help. Promise you will not get mad or embarrass him/her in front of friends.

Teens often act on impulse. Even good kids make bad choices. Plan, talk and help your teen stay safe on prom night.

As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstances, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.

You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

If you break the law, you can face jail time and/or fines.

Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21, and they, in turn, hurt themselves or damage property.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
or log onto www.parenthelpline.org