

Going to a party



There is an 18th birthday party this weekend and my 16 year old teenager wants to go. Apparently 'everyone' is going. I am not sure how I feel about this and I haven't seen an invitation.

You might like to explain that you need more information before you make a decision. Consider:

- discussing any concerns and negotiating some conditions
- contacting the host's parents
- checking on details such as adult supervision, location and arrangements regarding alcohol and transport.
- discussing what will happen if there is alcohol at the party and explaining that it is illegal to supply alcohol to a person under the age of 18 (refer to "Alcohol, young people and the law" information sheet).

Sometimes, by making contact with the host and asking these questions, your teenager might feel that you do not trust him or her. It is important that you explain that you are concerned about their safety.

Talk about how they are getting to and from the party. Some ideas might be:

- leave the car or motorcycle at home
- share a taxi with friends to cut costs
- stay the night at a friend's place
- use the train or bus
- organise to be picked up by someone who has not been drinking alcohol or car pool with friends' parents
- nominate a designated driver who is responsible.

For more information refer to the following websites

- NSW Police - *Safe Party Strategy* information kit
www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/youth/safe_party_strategy
- Youthsafe - Parent fact sheet - *Helping teenagers celebrate safely*
www.youthsafe.org/factsheets/helping_teenagers_fact_sheet.pdf

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