

LETTING TEENS DRINK can really end badly:

- There could be serious, permanent effects on the teens' mental and physical development.
- You may be legally liable if you provide alcohol to minors and they become seriously ill or crash.
- You are subject to heavy fines.
- Teens are subject to fines and the loss of their driver's licenses.
- Someone could get seriously injured or die in an alcohol-related crash.



So what can you do?

When Delaware high school juniors were surveyed, 42% said they had been to a party where adults provided the alcohol. So know where your teens are going, and who they are hanging out with. If they're going to a friend's house, call the parents to find out if they will be there too. And make sure those parents know you don't allow your child to drink. Teens will drink because they think it's cool or to feel like they are part of the crowd. They don't always see underage drinking as risky.

It's your job to convince them otherwise.

Let your children know the majority of teens don't drink! And the good news is that more and more schools, parents, community groups and church groups are hosting alcohol-free events that include parent supervision, food, games and prizes.

Get involved in your teens' lives. Talk with them.

Establish clear rules for them, especially concerning alcohol use. Set consequences for the rules and enforce them. Communicate the dangers of underage alcohol use to your teens. Help them think of ways to resist alcohol, say no to peer pressure, and have fun without drinking.

It's up to you. Under your influence, there's no telling how far your teens can go.

HELPING TEENS RESIST DRINKING. IT'S A NO-BRAINER.



For more information on underage drinking laws and penalties, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.

NO-BRAINER.

If you're thinking of letting your teen drink,
maybe you should
THINK AGAIN.





The police take it seriously. Maybe you should, too.

Everywhere across the country, more and more parents and teens are facing criminal charges, fines and suspended licenses for participating in underage drinking.

You

Adults who sell or deliver alcohol to, or purchase alcohol for, those under age 21 are subject to up to a \$500 fine and 40 hours of community service. Parents who host parties where minors drink alcohol can also be held liable in civil court if any of those underage persons are killed or injured, or if they injure another person—**liable for medical bills, property damage, emotional pain and suffering, and more.** Don't let this happen to you.



You can even be held liable if the drinking occurs when you're not at home, so make sure alcohol is not accessible to your teens or their friends.

So, if you think that it's safer for your teen to drink at home than to go somewhere else and drink, **THINK AGAIN.**

Know the laws on teen drinking.

In Delaware the **Zero Tolerance Law** states that anyone under the age of 21 who operates any vehicle while consuming or after having consumed any amount of alcohol will be arrested. The teens **will lose their driver's license**—for at least two months and possibly until they're 21. They may also be fined. If they use a fake ID, they'll have to pay hefty fines and jail time *is* a possibility.

Don't let your teens have alcohol on their brains.

Drinking alcohol can lead to **impaired brain** development and organ damage in growing teens. It slows the body's functions and impairs judgment. **And it only takes six months to two years for a teen to become an alcoholic.**

Further, when teens drink, they tend to drink more than adults do. On average, young people have about five drinks on a single occasion. This is called **binge drinking**, and it can lead to alcohol poisoning, blackouts and even death.



It's a no-brainer.

HELP TEENS RESIST DRINKING.

Underage drinking can also lead to:

- teens carrying out, or being victims of, physical or sexual assaults
- bad grades in school
- run-ins with the law
- drug use
- risky sexual activity, increasing the chance of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS



5,000 more reasons you shouldn't let your teen drink.

Every year, approximately 5,000 minors die as a result of underage drinking. This includes motor vehicle crashes, homicides, suicides, and injuries such as falls, burns and drownings.