



Don't be  
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teenage  
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It's against  
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## Don't be a party to teenage drinking!

### It's Against the Law

Through the "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most" Campaign, the Franklin Township Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse wants to encourage parents and the community to send a unified message that teen alcohol consumption is not acceptable. We have a responsibility to help youth realize that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are not necessary to enjoy activities or to show independence. By being positive role models and working together during this exciting point in teens' lives, we will ensure that we are making only positive marks on the pages of their lives.

**Parents can make the difference as we address the 4 issues of underage drinking: Alcohol is**

**Available      Affordable      Acceptable      Attractive**

Underage use of alcohol is a serious problem that too often leads to harmful consequences for youth and their families. Some parents have the attitude that "I did it when I was in high school, so what's the harm?" Realize that things have changed:

- When many parents were in high school, the legal drinking age was 18 and underage drinkers often consumed "3-2" beer. The legal age for any alcohol consumption is now 21.
- Drunk driving laws are much tougher than in the past.
- Many more teens have automobiles at their disposal, and are driving farther to attend parties.
- Recent research into brain development of adolescents has revealed that underage drinking causes damage to the brain and is the main cause of adult alcoholism.

Teenagers from Franklin are having the best times of their lives. They are finishing high school, planning their career paths, and enjoying the friendships they have grown throughout their years in Franklin. Everything changes one night after making poor decisions about drinking alcohol and students soon discover that they are living a new reality.

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guides when hosting parties for their children:

- Host safe, alcohol free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation.
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in their home or on your property.
- Be at home when your teenager has a party.
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home.
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events.
- Report underage drinking.

#### Get the Facts:

- It is illegal in NJ to serve alcohol to anyone who is under the legal drinking age of 21 (NJSA 2C:33-17a)
- It is illegal in NJ to make your home or property available for the purpose of allowing anyone who is under the legal drinking age of 21 a place to consume alcohol (NJSA 2C:33-17b)
- Any person who serves or makes alcohol available to a person under the legal drinking age of 21 is subject to a \$1,000 fine and up to 180 days in jail per person served. Parents can be held civilly liable even if they are not present during the time of the party (NJSA 2C:33-17)
- If serving an underage person alcohol results in injury, the adult may be charged with Endangering the Welfare of Children, and may be subject to a fine of up to \$15,000 and up to 5 years in state prison (NJSA 2C:24-4)
- New Jersey Law imposes civil liability on social hosts who serve alcohol to anyone under the legal drinking age of 21 who is subsequently involved in an incident causing injury or death
- A social host may be sued for up to two years after an incident that occurs resulting in injury or death. As the result of a lawsuit, your house, car, and bank accounts may be seized and future wages may be garnished

**Contact us for a free lawn sign and place it in your yard May-June to show your support of the  
Parents Who Host Lose the Most campaign.**