



The median age at which children begin drinking is 12 (NIDA, 2002). Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21. ([CADCA, 1996](#)) & ([NIAAA, 2002](#))

## Will you help to change these statistics?

### *Safe Homes/Safe Parties Campaign*

A statewide initiative developed by Informed Families/The Florida Family Partnership and implemented by parents of teens and pre-teens to ensure that drugs, alcohol and cigarettes will not be permitted at parties held in their homes and discouraged at parties in the community.

Parents take ownership of the program by signing a pledge that states that they will:

- Set guidelines
- Not allow underage youth to drink alcoholic beverages or use tobacco or other drugs in their home or places of business
- Be present at all pre-teen and teenage parties held in their homes to ensure that no drugs, alcohol or tobacco are present
- Encourage future drug- and alcohol-free activities for underage youth

While Safe Homes/Safe Parties is a year-round education program, the campaign is most prevalent during the spring months—when school proms and graduation ceremonies occur.

## Why we need you?

Critical Mass is necessary to change a community

For more information please contact David Williams, Jr. at **305-856-4886** or [dwilliams@informedfamilies.org](mailto:dwilliams@informedfamilies.org)



**Informed Families**  
 2490 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145  
 Tel: (305) 856-4886 Fax: (305) 856-4815

The proud sponsors of the National Red Ribbon Campaign

# PARENTS GUIDE TO TEEN PARTIES



There are many pressures drawing youth to the use of cigarettes, alcohol and other harmful drugs. The strongest pressures on the young adults are social/societal (including advertising & media) and the need for group acceptance. Many parents and their teenagers talk about appropriate guidelines in this area, yet continue to feel helpless. Some parents, wanting their teenagers to belong to a group, serve alcohol at parties to their teenagers and friends. When parents work together, the pres-

sure to serve or allow the use of illegal beverages, tobacco and other drugs will be significantly reduced. Don't fall prey to the teen tactic, "But all the other parents let their kids do it." Review the following guidelines and discuss them with your family and friends. Communicate what standards you expect to be followed. Support one another within families and from family to family.

## WHEN YOUR TEEN IS ATTENDING A PARTY

- Know where your teenager will be.
- Personally contact parents of the party giver.
- Be certain that alcohol, tobacco and other drugs will not be permitted.
- Agree beforehand on a curfew.
- Know how your teenager will get to and from the party.
- Personally check with parents. If your child stays overnight with a friend after the party.
- If your teenager attends a party where alcohol, tobacco and other drugs were served by parents or allowed, it is important to:
  - Phone and discuss your disapproval with the parents.
  - Discuss the illegal ramifications with them.
  - Share notes with other parents.
  - Express thanks and support to parents and students within these guidelines.

## WHEN YOUR TEEN IS GIVING A PARTY

- Plan in advance.
- Agree to the rules ahead of time.
- Know your responsibilities.
- Anyone who leaves the party should not be allowed to return.
- Welcome calls from other parents to discuss the party arrangements.
- Notify your neighbors beforehand that a party is being given and will be supervised.
- Notify police when giving a large party.
- Plan to have food and plenty of non alcoholic drink.
- Plan some activities ahead: Movies, dancing, sports, etc.
- Discuss the party afterwards.

OUR PLEDGE . . . . .  
To Stop Underage  
Alcohol & Drug Use

## INFORMED FAMILIES PLEDGE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School your child/children attends: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this bottom portion to Informed Families. You will receive a decal in return.