

Going to a party



There is an 18th birthday party this weekend and my 16 year old 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 supervision, location, arrangements regarding alcohol and transport
- telling your teenager they can phone you at any time and you will come and pick them up
- giving them some emergency money so they can get a taxi home
- giving them a phone card or getting a Homelink®1800 number so that your son/daughter can ring you from any phone, even if they have no money
- organising a car pool with friends' parents
- checking there is a designated driver who will not drink alcohol.

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.

The 'after party'... *My 15 year old is hassling me about hosting a party after the Year 10 Formal. She has told me that some of her friends might bring alcohol to the party.*

It is illegal to sell or supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. So, if you decide to host the 'after party' make sure that alcohol is not provided to minors. You might also consider what other responsibility you have as the host.

For more information you might like to refer to the *Safe Party Strategy* information kit on the NSW Police website (www.police.nsw.gov.au/prevention/partykit.cfm).