

WATCHOUT



DELHI TOWNSHIP POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Spring 2008

Prom Safety Tips:

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PROM NIGHT.... AND AFTER

REMEMBER YOUR PROM EXPERIENCE. Some things have changed and some things are exactly the same. Many adolescents go to the prom with someone they don't know well or know only as a classmate or friend. Yet they are expected to dance together and spend time together at post prom activities, which often are unchaperoned. Many adolescents also feel pressured to have sex with their prom date, even when they don't know each other well. These situations cause enormous stress for teens.

To cope with these pressures, many teens use alcohol and/or drugs. The use of these substances can cause relaxation, loss of inhibitions, and alter perception, judgment, feelings and behavior. In other words, a teen may do things that they normally would not do. They may behave in uncharacteristic ways including making questionable choices about sexual behavior, and other behaviors that put their health and safety at risk.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

All year long get educated about current drug use trends in your community.

- Speak to your Student Guidance Counselor and PTA representatives. Attend educational workshops that address the issues of young people and alcohol and other drug use.
- Tell your child about the dangers of alcohol/other drugs including medical emergencies like alcohol poisoning. Encourage them to get help if a friend is in trouble. If they are hesitant to notify an adult, tell them to call Poison Control for anonymous advice.

At least a week before the prom:

Talk to your son or daughter.

- State that you love him/her and your primary concern is for his/her health and safety.
- Ask your child what they expect from prom night and ask if they have any concerns.
- Ask what plans are in place (if any) for post prom celebrations.
- Reassure your teen that you understand prom night pressures and fears and list them.
- Discuss your position on situations that might arise. Suggest ways to handle these situations.
- Ask your teen for other ways these situation can be handled and evaluate the different strategies.
- Ask your son/daughter to think about these issues and tell him/her you'd like to continue the discussion.

At least one day before the prom:

- Re-state your concerns for health and safety and re-state your expectations.
- Ask if he/she has additional thoughts or feelings.
- Get a schedule of events.
- Stress that you will pick him/her up whenever or wherever if he/she wants to come home or you will leave money for a taxi if they don't want to call you but want to come home.



When the Limo or party van comes:

- Speak directly to the driver and discuss your expectations for an alcohol/drug free ride.
- Inspect the limo, including the trunk, to make sure it is alcohol/drug free.
- Don't permit non-alcoholic beverages in the limo if the seal has been broken or the beverage opened.
- Tell the driver you do not want any stops made on the way to the prom.

After to prom:

- See your teen when he/she comes home. If your teen has obviously been drinking or using other drugs, don't let him/her go back out.
- Talk to your teen about his/her experience.
- Compliment them on the good choices they made.
- Problem solve around difficult situations that may have arisen.

Things to remember:

- Accidents can happen going to, coming from, and at the hotel room, club, and other after prom sites.
- Vomiting, passing out and other alcohol and drug related incidents can result in damaged reputations, lowered self esteem, and ruined relationships.
- Driving while tired may be as dangerous as driving while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.



For information on the Blockwatch Program Contact:

Lt. Jim Howarth or Sgt. Jeff Braun

(513) 922-0060

Underage Drinking Laws:

What Parents Should Know:

- As a parent, you can't give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.
- You can't knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

If You Break The Law:

- You can face a maximum sentence of 6 months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
- Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21, and they, in turn, hurt themselves or damage property.
- Officers can take any alcohol, money, or property used in committing the offense.

Things You Can Do As A Parent:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Be at home when your teen has a party.
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends.
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending.
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome.
- Report underage drinking to local law enforcement.

Important Things To Remember:

- It is illegal to host or allow teen drinking parties at your home.
- It is unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink.
- It is unsafe and illegal for teens to drink and drive.
- Parents can be prosecuted under the law.
- Everything associated with a violation, such as personal property, can be confiscated.

