

Information Brief

What Parents Can Do About "Keggers" and BYOB Parties

A clear-cut answer as to what parents can do about "Keggers" or keg parties is difficult. Suggestions have ranged from urging the police to charge and arrest every kegger participant to holding beer parties with heavy parental supervision. The lack of parental uniformity comes from one word - "**network**." Adolescents network all day with friends at school. Adults often do not have the same opportunity to **network** among their peers.

Here are a few suggestions for prevention and early intervention

- State your position clearly! Let your teenager know exactly how you feel about teenagers drinking alcohol in your home and on your property and why.
- Do not go out of town and leave your teenager(s) unsupervised. It is not fair to put your teenager in a "peer pressure" situation to be the host of the next keg party.
- Maintain open communication with your teenager about the current party scene. Discuss the criminal and civil liabilities associated with under age drinking.
- Don't discount the problem because you feel your teenager would never attend a beer party or kegger. If that's where everyone is, your teenager may be tempted to drop in just "to see who's there."
- Despite all good intentions, teenagers may still find themselves and their friends in a difficult situation. Teach your teenager how to recognize alcohol poisoning. Urge your teenager to call you at any time they need **HELP** personally or need help for a friend. Such a call, on several occasions, has saved a child from death by toxic alcohol overdose.
- As a citizen, work with the police to help them stop "keggers" before they start. Let them know about upcoming keggers or those that are in progress. Most police departments will keep such reports confidential. In that way, you have invited the police to the party so they can keep an eye on it for disturbances, drunk driving, and underage participants.