



Teen party season near

'Take care during the silly season'

The last term of the school year has begun. The weather is getting warmer, the days longer, and for senior students, they will be studying hard (hopefully) for their exams. What some people refer to as the silly season is approaching.

Parents are often faced with tough decisions about teenage parties at this time. Parties are part of growing up, yet no parent wants their teenager to be unsafe. Remember as a parent host you will have responsibilities and obligations to the guests and other parents.

Before agreeing to a part, give yourself time to think about it.

It OK not to respond to your teenagers request immediately, despite the pressure you may come under. Get clarification on how involved in the party your teenager wants to be and decide and agree to bottom line conditions. Always raise with your teenager, any concerns that you may have. Adequate supervision of teenage parties is essential.

Gatecrashers are a very real problem but there are a number of measures you can take to reduce the risk of unwanted guests. These include limiting the number of guests at the party to a manageable size and holding the party away from publicly accessible areas such as front yards.

Ensure invitations require an RSVP from parents and encourage parents to call you for information.

Inviting by means of social networking like Facebook or Twitter, is not a good idea.

- Manage the party and make it clear that any teenager leaving the party will not be allowed to return. This reduces the chance that teenagers leave the party to consume alcohol or drugs and later cause trouble at the party.
- Ensure you have a back up plan in place, and this may include calling the Police or the parents of your guests.
- Inform Police that you are having a party – we can provide safety tips and prevention advice.
- Email partypackcm@police.govt.nz with your name, address, contact details, time of the party, and the number of guests expected.
- Or you may visit your local Police Station.



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