

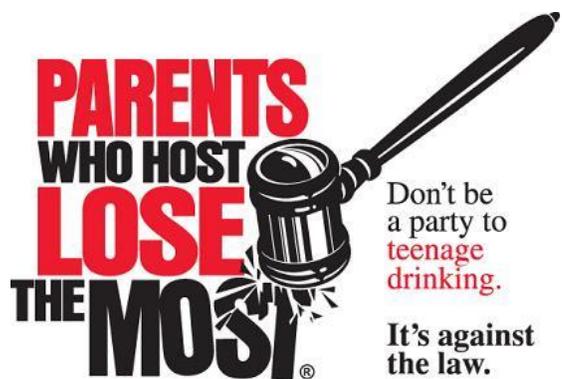
"Parents Who Host Lose the Most – Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking"

With prom and graduation upon us, the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department is partnering with Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) to promote the **"Parents Who Host Lose the Most – Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking"** campaign. This is a county-wide awareness initiative, reminding the community that it is illegal for adults to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

During this time, parents need to be aware that underage alcohol parties will increase. It is also important that parents and young people understand the ramifications and consequences that can come from underage alcohol consumption. The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department strongly discourages this unlawful activity and will remain proactive in the illegal use of alcohol by our young people.

Graduating from high school is a milestone in your child's life and signifies a major step toward the privileges and responsibilities of adulthood. CASAC and the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department realizes that this is a joyous time in your senior's life and we want it to be the happiest occasion possible.

Parents play a major role in the choices their children make when it comes to drinking. Many parents feel that a "safe" way to handle underage drinking is by hosting their teenage friends at house parties. **This, in fact, is against the law!** Adults providing alcohol to underage youth is not only illegal, but sends a mixed message adding to a teenager's confusion about the acceptability of drinking. It also sends the message to teens that they do not have to obey the law. We urge you to join us in strongly supporting zero tolerance for underage drinking and illegal drug use. Here's what you can do:



- Keep an open line of communication with your teen, but be firm in the **"no alcohol use before age 21"** message you give your teen. In a 2015-2016 survey given to Chautauqua County students in grades 7 – 12, more than **60%** of the students indicated that their parents have not talked to them about the dangers of alcohol use in the past year.
- Never host or provide alcohol to anyone under 21. It's **illegal, unsafe, unhealthy** and it can have deadly results.
- Don't allow your child to host or attend a party that is unsupervised by adults. Call the adult in charge of any party your teen attends. Make sure you are in agreement about what the adult supervision will be.
- As an adult role model, never drink and drive. Your actions speak louder than words.
- Talk to your teen about **how to say no** to risky situations involving alcohol or drugs.
- Tell your child that they can call you at any time they are in a risky situation. No questions asked.
- Team up and talk with other parents.
- Provide opportunities for youth to host safe, alcohol-free parties and activities.
- If you suspect your teen has an alcohol or drug problem, seek help. Contact your school counseling office or CASAC at (716) 664-3608.
- Remember to **let your child know you love them**.
- Help your child feel good about him/her self and **develop strong values**. Tell them you place high value on their special qualities and that drugs and alcohol will destroy those qualities. Discuss core values such as honesty and responsibility.
- **Report underage drinking** to local law enforcement.

We all love our children. Let's help them start their adult lives by setting a good example for them with a safe, healthy prom and graduation season. **Celebrate alcohol free!**