



## PROM SAFETY TIPS

Prom is short for promenade, the formal, introductory parading of guests at a party. Prom can be traced back to the co-ed banquets that 19th century American universities held for each year's graduating class. Now, prom is a night that many teens remember for the rest of their life! Err on the side of safety!

### Did you know?

- About half of teens admitted they or their friends would use drugs or alcohol on prom night
- More than 85% of teens say they or their peers are likely to drive impaired instead of calling their parents for help because they are afraid of getting in trouble
- Only 21% of teens have called their parents to pick them up because they or their driver was impaired
- Drinking alcohol is associated with other problems such as sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy
- High school students who drink are seven times more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors such as unprotected sex
- Going to prom is the second most significant event in a teenager's life, after getting a driver's license
- Roughly one-third of alcohol related teen traffic fatalities occur between April and June-- the peak of prom and graduation season
- 70% of teens killed on prom weekend were not wearing their seatbelt
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 300 teens have died in alcohol-related traffic accidents during prom weekends over the past several years
- The same amount of alcohol is in a 12oz beer, a 12oz wine cooler, and a 5oz glass of wine
- Last year among Houston Area high school students, 63% had at least one drink of alcohol, 44% used marijuana at least once, 32% rode with a driver who had been drinking, 10% drove under the influence, 47% had sex, 10% were forced to have sex, and 31% were currently sexually active
- Of students who are sexually active, 44% did not use condoms, 90% did not use birth control pills, 2% used both condoms and birth control pills, and 25% consumed alcohol before their last sexual intercourse

### PROM TIPS FOR TEENS:

- **Discuss:** Fully discuss all plans with your friends and date ahead of time. Discuss plans with your parents!
- **Communicate:** Make your date and friends aware of your curfew and ask a trusted adult to be near their phone in case you need to call for help of any kind.
- **Set Boundaries:** If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, do something! Be prepared to deal with peer pressure and ready to say "NO!" Be able to communicate boundaries with your date, you are not obligated to anything you are not comfortable with.
- **Be an Example:** Set the example and show others you can have fun without drugs and alcohol. Always be alert, observant and assertive
- **Be Safe:** If your driver has been drinking-- DO NOT GET IN THE CAR!
  - Offer to drive
  - Ask a sober friend to drive you
  - Call a trusted adult for help



## Monitor Your Own Behavior:

- Consent is not the absence of no but the ongoing presence of a yes
- Be respectful of other's boundaries and wishes, "no" means NO!
- Engaging in sexual contact with a minor who is younger than 14 years old is a felony
- It is a felony to engage in any sexual contact with a minor if you are 3 or more years older than a minor who is 17 years or younger
- The legal drinking age in Texas is 21
- Do not pressure or force anyone to go further sexually than they want to



## Monitor Your Own Behavior- Parents:

- It is illegal to make alcohol available to anyone under 21, even with their parent's permission
- Remember that you are legally liable if you choose to host a party for your teens and:
  - o A minor is injured or dies as a result of drinking on your property
  - o An underage person gets into a fight, falls, and hurts him/herself or is sexually assaulted
  - o A minor attending the party damages someone else's property
  - o The underage person who is drinking on your property leaves and is involved in a motor vehicle accident and causes injury to themselves or others



## Tips for parents – the time to talk is now:

- Discuss plans for post prom celebration
- Talk about rules for prom: your own rules, the school rules, and the consequences of violating the rules
- Communicated expectations of behavior
- Set a curfew
- Know who is driving. If a teen is riding in a limo, look into company policies on alcohol in the limo. When the limo arrives, greet the driver and take note of their name and license plate information.
- Communicate with other parents about prom plans
- Let your teen know they can call, no questions asked, if they need to be picked up
- Make sure your teens have money in case of emergency
- Ask your teen's school what they are doing to educate their students on prom safety

### BE PREPARED:

- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged
- Make sure you have a way to charge your cell phone if necessary
- Have a plan for who to call if you need help or feel unsafe.

### RELATED LAWS:

- Sending, possessing, or distributing naked pictures of minors is a felony
- The legal age of e-cigarette and tobacco usage and possession is 21
- The Law of Parties-- guilty by association (Tex. Pen. Code § 7.01)

### IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE:

- Call 911

## How to Report a Tip

 Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 Use our **Mobile App**  
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

 Go to [crime-stoppers.org](http://crime-stoppers.org)

## If your teen is victimized:

- > Remind them it is not their fault they were victimized
- > Seek assistance and counseling
- > Advocate for your teen