



Frequently asked questions

“Some underage guests took alcohol (which we supplied) from a party at our house and consumed it at the local park. Is this OK?”

Minors should not be allowed to take alcohol from the party to consume elsewhere. It is illegal for Minors to consume alcohol or for you to supply alcohol to a minor to consume in any public place unless they are with a parent, guardian or spouse. If you are aware that this is happening you could be held liable for allowing a minor to drink in public unsupervised.

It is illegal for anyone to consume alcohol in a Dry Area.

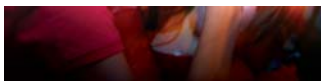
“Our 17 year old son is having a party for his friends in our home. We don’t want the guests to bring alcohol. We’d prefer to supply them with it. Is it OK for us to do this?”

Yes, you can supply the alcohol. In fact, that way you can control the amount and type available. Your son’s friends who are under 18 may consume alcohol in your home as it is a private premises.

However, keep in mind that you have a responsibility to those at the party. This includes ensuring that their parents are aware that alcohol will be provided and that the party will be supervised by responsible adults. Have a responsible adult serve the alcohol and ensure that controls are in place to minimise the risk of over-consumption of alcohol.

“My 17 year old son is having some friends over at our home and they want to drink alcohol. They have given me some money and asked me to purchase alcohol for them to drink whilst they are at our home. Is it illegal for me to do this?”

It is not illegal for you to purchase liquor for your son and his friends to drink at your home, either by way of a voluntary ‘pooled money’ arrangement or at your own expense, as long as you are not buying and re-selling the liquor yourself or making the payment of money a condition of attending.



General Information

As a parent you have certain responsibilities when holding a party for teenagers (particlaurly those under 18). These responsibilities are increased if alcohol is going to be available at the party.

You must provide a safe environment for those attending the party. This responsibility also extends to guests who may be congregating in the vicinity of the party.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the party is adequately supervised and that all the guests are safe at all times.

You should be aware that there may be legal implications if you do not act responsibly when your teenagers are hosting a party.

For further information contact the Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner (details below).

This brochure outlines answers to some of the more frequently asked questions. These are guidelines only.

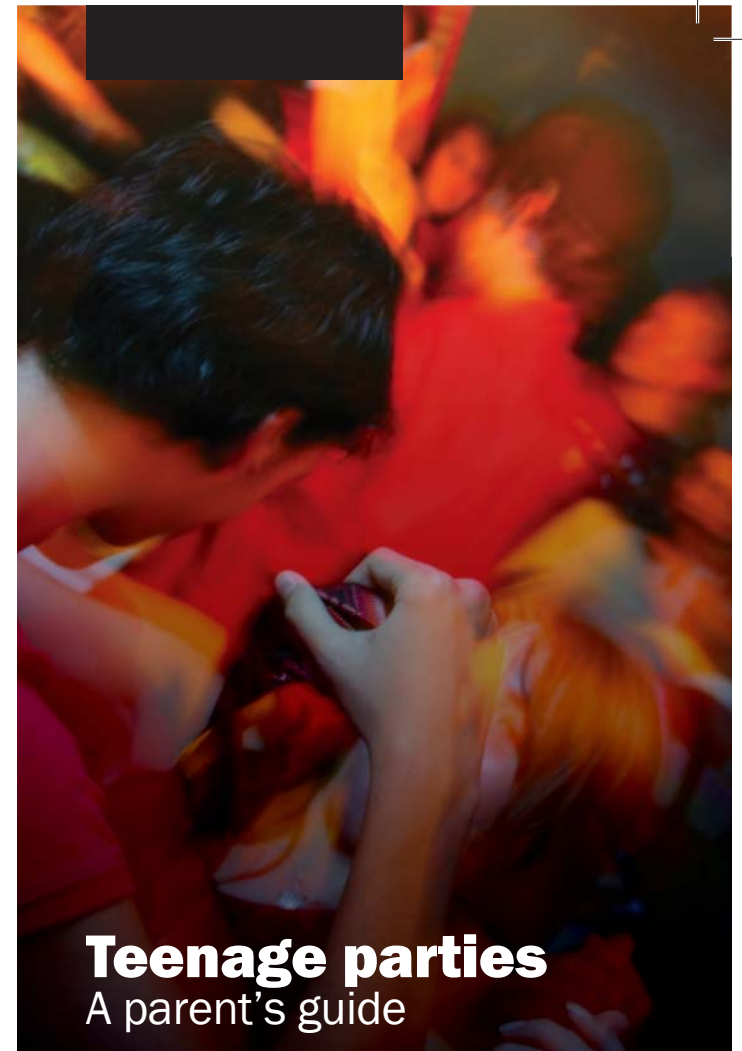
The Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner

GPO Box 2169
ADELAIDE SA 5001
9th floor, East Wing
50 Grenfell Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

(08) 8226 8410
olgc@agd.sa.gov.au
www.olgc.sa.gov.au

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Teenage parties

A parent's guide

Party tips and your legal responsibilities outlined



Government of South Australia

Office of the Liquor and Gambling
Commissioner



What are the laws about young people drinking alcohol at a home party?

Are you hosting a teenage party in a private home?

It is not illegal for a person aged under 18 years (minor) to drink alcohol in a private residence. Being responsible for people attending the party, in some special circumstances, may mean that the responsible adult has a legal duty of care to those under their supervision. Therefore, you need to be well informed of the legal and insurance implications. If alcohol is available at the party the liquor licensing laws may apply.

As the host of a teenage party, you are responsible for providing information to parents of other teenagers attending your party, particularly if alcohol is involved. Other parents may object to their children attending if alcohol will be consumed or available. They may want to be reassured that the party will be properly supervised.

Special considerations and tips

Many parents are concerned that their teenagers may have access to alcohol, or be given alcohol by their friends' parents or other adults without obtaining their permission. Get to know your teenagers' friends and families and try to establish good communication with them.

Remember to make sure your teenager understands the risks and harms associated with drinking alcohol at a young age. It's a good idea to discuss boundaries and limits you have set for him/her in relation to alcohol, but keep the lines of communication open.

Allowing teenage guests to bring their own alcohol to your party means you may have less control over what they do with it.

As the host you have a duty of care to all of your guests. This means that you will need to do all that you reasonably can to provide a safe environment, protect all your guests (young people as well as adults) and help them avoid trouble. With this in mind, ensure that you are firm, clear and consistent in applying your party rules to all guests while they are on your premises.

Supervision of teenage parties is essential, so you should stay at home to supervise the party. Should someone be injured, leaving the party unsupervised could mean that you have breached your legal duty of care and are liable for their injury.

Gate-crashers can also be a problem. To prevent this happening ask older siblings, a relative or close family friend to assist with supervision. Some parents hire security company personnel who are trained in crowd control. The presence of a uniformed crowd controller can be an effective deterrent to would be gate-crashers.

Emergency care

It's a good idea to have a plan for emergencies and to have someone available at the party who is able to provide emergency first aid.

Someone who is vomiting will often ask to be left alone. However, it is important that someone stays with them in case they choke or pass out. Choking on vomit can cause death so it is important that the person is put in the recovery position if they are unwell and incapacitated.

Don't hesitate to call an ambulance (tel. 000 or 112 if out of range/phone credit) if you think one is needed.

Further information

Register your party with the local police. If you register your party well in advance they may be able to organise for a patrol car to drive by on the night to check for any trouble with gate-crashers.

You also have a responsibility to minimise the impact of noise emanating from the party.



Frequently asked questions

“My son is going to a party where there will be alcohol. Who is responsible for him? Is there any legal responsibility for his supervision?”

The people hosting the party are responsible for those at the party. Being responsible for people attending the party, in some special circumstances, may mean that the responsible adult may have a legal duty of care to those under their supervision. Make sure you know whether parents or a responsible adult will be present at all times.

As the parent of a minor, you have a right to all the information needed to decide whether or not to allow your child to attend a party. You should:

- find out how many people will be at the party, and if attendance is by invitation only, whether there will be any food served, whether alcohol will be provided or allowed and what time the party will finish
- drop off your teenager and arrange to pick him/her up at a certain time
- get the name and phone number of a responsible adult who will be present the party. Don't hesitate to call him or her if you would like more information or are concerned about anything to do with the party.

“We've collected \$10 from everyone to buy alcohol for a party my daughter is having in our home. Is this OK? What if the guests are under 18?”

It is OK to charge \$10 to guests aged 18 and over. However, if the party guests are unable to drink the alcohol without paying the \$10, a limited licence must be obtained as you are selling alcohol.

You can apply for a limited licence from this Office. Contact details are on the back of this brochure.

Guests under 18 are not permitted to consume alcohol as it is illegal under the limited licence conditions. If a minor does consume alcohol, both you and the minor are committing an offence.

This is also the case if one of your teenagers goes to a party where an entry fee is charged.

