

Parental Responsibility When Hosting a Youth Party or Gathering

- Communicate your expectations in advance and establish clear rules *with* your child (“no use” should be one of them). Discuss how he or she can respond if a guest attempts to break a rule.
- To reduce the burden on your son or daughter, communicate rules and expectations with his or her friends when they arrive.
- Confirm with parents who call about the party that alcohol will not be available, nor allowed (Parent Tip: Facilitate a comfortable call by offering up this information before being asked. You may also want to mention your rules about media, movie ratings, video game ratings, and/or internet monitoring as well).
- Lock up alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes, over-the-counter medication, and prescription drugs.
- Unfortunately, some teens go to great lengths to sneak in alcohol or other drugs. Check your property (Parent Tip: Bushes are a favorite hiding spot) and the backpacks/purses and any opened beverages being brought to your home. You may be concerned this sends the message that you don’t trust your child, but if framed properly, it demonstrates that you care and that you are serious about keeping him or her safe.
- Be a visible host (**Parent Tip: Use small snack dishes and replenish often**).
- Only allow “by invitation only” gatherings, so you know who is at your home.
- Call the parents of anyone who appears to be under the influence or is in possession of illegal substances (Parent Tip: Start the conversation by explaining that if it were your child, you would want to know).

***Important Reminder:** Host parents may be held liable for harm caused by intoxicated youth, and you can be sued if serious harm results from illegal activity that takes place in your home. If you live in Minnetonka or Shorewood, you may also be held criminally liable for "hosting" an underage drinking party, even if you do not provide the alcohol.

The Social Host Ordinances in **Excelsior, Minnetonka, and Shorewood** support the majority of parents and young people in our community who do not enable or engage in underage drinking. It also sends a clear message of accountability to those who might consider hosting underage drinkers. Under the ordinances, the host of a party where underage drinking takes place is considered criminally responsible, regardless of who provided the alcohol. Violators can be charged with a misdemeanor. You can protect yourself by ensuring those under the age of 21 cannot access alcohol in your home. **For more information, visit the following links:**

- [Overview of Social Host Ordinances](#)
- [Brochure containing information about relevant MN laws](#)
- [Information about Shorewood's Social Host Ordinance](#)

Suggested Parental Responsibility When Your Child is Invited to an Activity:

- Call the adult in charge of the activity to verify the occasion, location, and house rules. Confirm there will be “active” adult supervision.
- If the activity seems inappropriate, express your concern, keep your child home, and seek an alternate activity.
- Verifying your child’s plans builds trust!

Curfew Reminder

Curfew laws exist in both Hennepin and Carver Counties to prevent juvenile crime and protect youth from being victims of crime. Curfews are the same in both counties and for all cities in the Minnetonka Schools Community, though some cities in Carver County have additional ordinances.

***NOTE:** Minnetonka police will respond to reports of juveniles violating curfew and actively patrol areas teens hang out.



The poster features a background image of four diverse, smiling teenagers. At the top, the text reads "Curfew is the law" in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this, in a smaller white font, it says "It keeps kids safe" and provides the website "www.hennepinattorney.org/curfew". A table is overlaid on the bottom right of the poster, detailing curfew times for different age groups. The table has three columns: "Age", "Weekdays home by", and "Friday & Saturday home by". The rows correspond to age groups: "Under 12", "12 to 14", and "15 to 17".

Age	Weekdays home by	Friday & Saturday home by
Under 12	9 p.m.	10 p.m.
12 to 14	10 p.m.	11 p.m.
15 to 17	11 p.m.	midnight

In the bottom left corner of the poster, there is a circular seal for Hennepin County, Minnesota, with the text "Hennepin County Minnesota" and "www.hennepinattorney.org" around it.