

PROMise to be *Safe, Sober and Drug Free*



Did you know that Prom season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for teens? *One-third of teen drunk driving fatalities happen between April and June.*

Prom Safety: Simple Tips for Parents

Parents play an important role in teen safety, especially during prom. Teens need to know they have a support system that will get them out of any hairy situations. Here are some simple suggestions from Family Education that you can use to make sure your teen has a safe prom night:



Know the Plans

- Where is the Prom and at what time does it begin and end?
- Who's driving- to and from dinner/the dance/the after-party? Think twice about allowing your under-classman child to travel and party with upper-classmen.
- Who's going? Names and numbers for children and parents.
- Where and when? Dinner and after-party location. Will adults be present, and will they allow alcohol?
- Have an emergency code with your teen, something they can text you if they are in trouble or need to be picked up.
- Be available to "rescue" them from any unsafe circumstances, no questions asked.
- Set a curfew. They **really** don't need to stay out all night.
- Touch base. Text or quick calls to confirm all is well.
- NO PLAN CHANGES without your involvement.
- Wait up to happily hear all the fun stories.

After-Party Safety

- NO ALCOHOL or other drugs.
- Location, supervision, and time frames.
- If kids leave the party, they can't return.
- Food and beverages available are provided, not brought in.
- Keep alcohol and medications safely locked out of sight to reduce temptations and access.
- If you have more than one party invitation, have your child pick one and avoid "party hopping".
- Offer to help the hosts, or if you're hosting, ask for help.

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Provide a Safety Net

- Talk candidly with your child about balancing safety and fun. Ask about their expectations and concerns.
- Set boundaries and make sure they understand that there are consequences for breaking school as well as your own rules.
- Communicate/network with other parents to ensure common expectations.

Things to Know

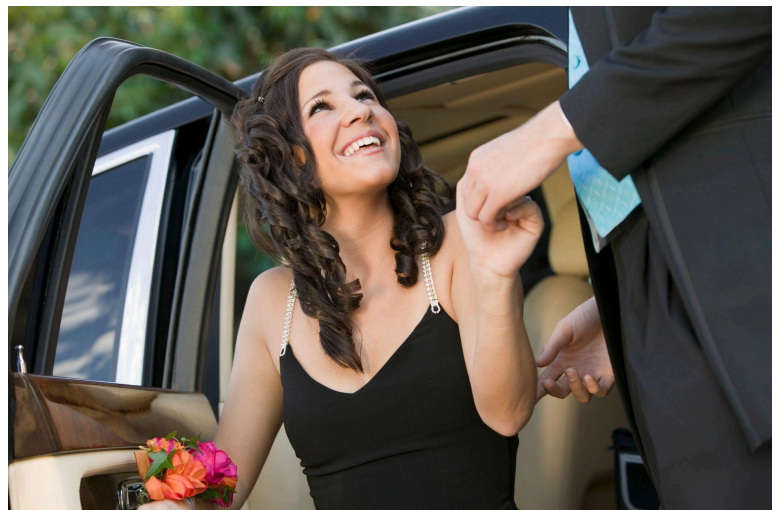
- **Revised MIP Statute:** The Missouri Liquor Control Law (Chapter 311.325) states that if it can be shown that a minor has consumed alcohol, the minor can be charged with Minor in Possession (MIP). It is no longer necessary for possession of containers, open or otherwise, as a basis for arrest.
- **Local Curfew Laws:** Throughout West County, it is unlawful for anyone under the age of 17 to be in a public or unsupervised place between the hours of 11 PM and 6 AM Sunday-Thursday and 12 Midnight to 6 AM Friday-Saturday, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- **Social Hosting Liability:** The state of Missouri has laws that specifically prohibit adults from allowing underage drinking on their property – wittingly or not. Under Missouri law, a social host can be found criminally liable if he or she serves alcohol to someone under the age of 21.

Resources

Anonymous Reports of suspicious activity or party plans can be made to your local police departments at the following numbers:

- **Ballwin:** 636-227-9636
- **Chesterfield:** 636-537-3000
- **Creve Coeur:** 314-432-8000
- **Ellisville:** 636-227-7777
- **Eureka:** 636-938-6600
- **Fenton:** 636-349-8120
- **Wildwood:** 636-458-9194

Family Education: www.familyeducation.com



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