

High school proms and balls should be a positive and memorable experience for our teenagers. Decisions about ball gowns, tuxedos and limousines seem to be the most important issues.

However, the choices made during and after the prom determine whether the experience will be a positive one. It is critical that we provide our children with information about the effects and dangers of alcohol and other drugs so they are prepared to make the right choice.

Monroe County hopes this pamphlet will help guide teens to a safe, fun and memorable evening.

For parents, we hope this pamphlet will help you initiate a positive and productive discussion with your son or daughter. How can you enter into a prom safety pledge with your child? A sample pledge form is included in this brochure.

I hope you find this information useful. Have a safe and enjoyable prom season!

Maggie Brooks

Maggie Brooks
Monroe County Executive



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Facts & Figures

TEEN DRINKING FACTS

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens, and about one-third of those are alcohol related.

(National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

Teen alcohol use kills approximately 6,000 people each year, more than all illegal drugs combined.

(Social and Health Consequences of Underage Drinking, Hingson & Kenkel)

Nearly 50% of teenagers have attended parties where the consumption of alcohol occurred, and where parents were present.

(The American Medical Association)

PROM FACTS

Those who drive to the prom are required to have a night license.

Students are not allowed to go to the prom if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Once a student leaves the prom site, schools generally do not allow them to be re-admitted.

Most hotels increase security on prom night and will call the police for any misconduct; including consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

Tips for Parents

Talk openly with your son or daughter about their plans for the prom and set a curfew.

If you host a post-prom party, make sure no alcohol or other drugs are permitted.

Discuss how to handle peer pressure to drink or use other drugs with your teen.

Know who will be providing transportation and remind your child to buckle up.

Encourage your teen to call you at any time if he/she feels unsafe or uncomfortable.

Communicate with other parents about prom plans.

If your child plans to hire a limousine, find out the company's policies on alcohol and other drugs in the vehicle.

As a Student

I recognize there are many important decisions I face every day. I commit to you that I will do everything in my power to avoid making those that will risk my health, my safety and my overall wellbeing, or your trust in me.

By signing below, I pledge to remain free of alcohol and other drugs, never drive under the influence or ride with an impaired driver, and I agree that I will always wear a seatbelt.

I also agree to call you if I am ever in a situation that threatens my safety or makes me uncomfortable.

(Student's Signature)

As a Parent

I am committed to you and to your health and safety. By signing below, I pledge to provide you transportation home if you are ever in a situation that threatens your safety and/or well-being.

I will also defer discussions about that situation until a time when we can both talk about it in a calm and caring manner.

(Parent's Signature)



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