



# News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission  
9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355  
1-800-452-6522

For more information:  
Christie Scott, Public Affairs Specialist, (503) 872-5002  
[Christie.Scott@state.or.us](mailto:Christie.Scott@state.or.us), [www.oregon.gov/olcc](http://www.oregon.gov/olcc)

May 20, 2015

## **Parents: Don't be a party to underage drinking this prom & graduation season**

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – Remember your prom experience? How about when you graduated from high school? The Oregon Liquor Control Commission reminds parents that while some things have changed, other pressures teens face are exactly the same.

Prom and graduation should be celebrated as alcohol and substance-free events. However, statistics show that one third of the alcohol-related traffic fatalities involving teens each year occur during prom and graduation season - April, May, and June.

“Studies repeatedly show that regular communication between parents and kids has a positive influence on the decisions that teens make,” says OLCC Portland Metro Regional Manager, Shannon Hoffeditz. “Talking to your kids doesn't have to be hard, remind them that the goal is for teens to have a fun, safe, and memorable prom and graduation.”

### **Top 10 things parents can do for a safe prom/graduation season:**

1. Discuss rules for the celebrating: your own rules, the school rules, and the consequences for violating the rules.
2. Ask your teen for a complete itinerary for the evening, including where they'll be going before, during and after prom. If you have graduates, make sure you know where and when they will be celebrating.
3. Take inventory of the alcohol in your home and secure it, if needed. In a survey by the American Medical Association, two out of three teens aged 13-18 said that it is easy to get alcohol from their homes without parents knowing about it. One-third responded that it is easy to obtain alcohol from their own parents knowingly, which increases to 40 percent when it is from a friend's parent.
4. If you are hosting a post-prom or grad party, remember it is illegal to serve alcohol to minors. Some parents feel that hosting a house party where alcohol is served to minors is safer because they can control it. Allowing these parties is illegal, even with other parents' consent. Hosts may be held responsible for consequences that result. Injuries and car accidents after such parent-hosted parties remind us that no parent can completely control the actions of intoxicated youth, during or after a party. And the main message children hear is that drinking illegally is okay.
5. If your teen is riding in a limo, check the company's policy on allowing alcohol in the vehicle.
6. Do not rent hotel rooms or vacation rental properties for your teens.
7. Communicate with other parents about prom-graduation plans.

8. Reinforce that they should get help if a friend is in trouble. Be available to provide a timely and safe ride home if needed. Let them know that they should call you if they need a ride home or get into a situation they know isn't safe -- no matter what time it is, no matter where they are.
9. Remind your teen that everyone has a camera these days. With security cameras, phone cameras and video cams everywhere, it is important your child realizes that they shouldn't do anything that might cause them embarrassment by ending up Facebook or YouTube. Unfortunately, what ends up on the internet and social media, stays on the internet and can be shared with hundreds of people very quickly.
10. Talk to your soon-to-be graduate about how underage drinking could jeopardize their future plans for college. A college acceptance can be revoked for illegal behavior and/or for getting expelled from high school.

Looking for a good conversation starter? OLCC has several videos available on our [Youtube channel](#) to help get the conversation started.

##