

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With prom season rapidly approaching, please take a moment to talk with your child about the dangers of risky behavior and peer pressure associated with this eventful evening. As a parent/guardian, you have a major impact on your child's decision whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

A survey of more than 2,500 high school juniors and seniors conducted by Liberty Mutual and SADD found that 90 percent believed their peers are more likely to drink and drive on prom night. Of even more concern is the fact that only 29 percent of teens say that driving on prom night is very dangerous.

The most effective way to protect your children is by exercising your parental responsibility and communicating the consequences of their actions. Not providing firm and clear guidelines before the prom may be detrimental to the safety of your child.

I hope you will find this information helpful. If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please don't hesitate to call my office. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,



Roxanne J. Persaud  
19th Senate District



**SENATOR  
ROXANNE J. PERSAUD  
19TH SENATE DISTRICT**

**Questions? Concerns?**

**Please contact me:**

**Albany Office:**

504 Legislative Office Bldg.

Albany, NY 12247

**Phone:** 518-455-2788

**District Office:**

1222 East 96th St.

Brooklyn, NY 11236

**Phone:** 718-649-7653

**Email address:** [persaud@nysenate.gov](mailto:persaud@nysenate.gov)

**Web:** [persaud.nysenate.gov](http://persaud.nysenate.gov)

**Helpful Contacts:**

**SADD – Students Against Drunk Driving**

[info@sadd.org](http://info@sadd.org) or call

1-877-SADD-INC (1-877-723-3462)

**MADD – Mothers Against Drunk Driving**

[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

1-877-MADD-HELP (1-877-623-3435)

**Partnership for Drug-Free Kids**

[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

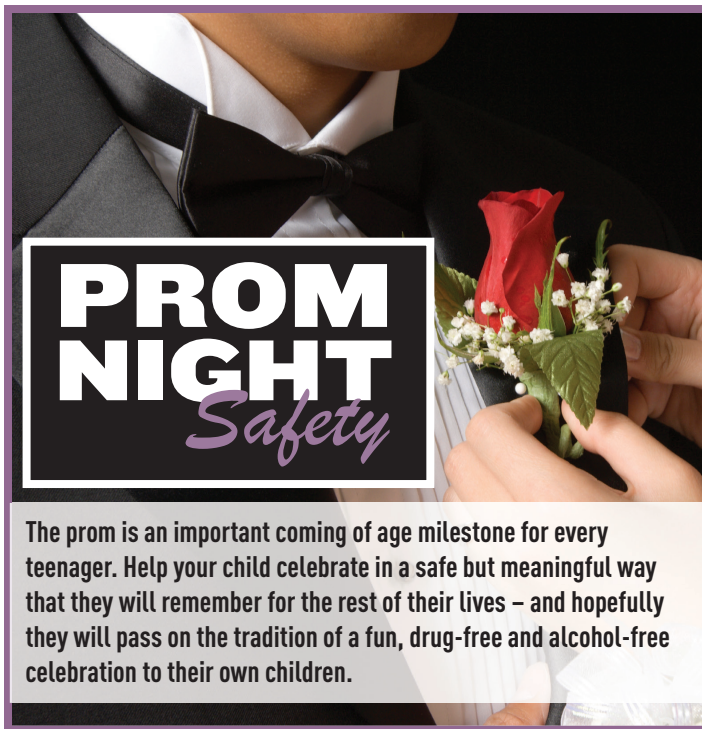
1-855-DRUGFREE (1-855-378-4373)

# PROM NIGHT

*Safety*

**WHAT EVERY PARENT  
NEEDS TO KNOW**





## HAVE A CLEAR PLAN IN PLACE

Be firm but not overly restrictive. Be specific when it comes to your rules. “You are not to use any drug, including tobacco or alcohol, under any circumstances.” Then explain why.

- Set a curfew – It’s not a trust issue, it’s a safety issue. Know where your teen is, how long he/she will be there, when he/she will be leaving, who is there, and who is supervising the event.
- If your teen is staying overnight at a friend’s house, verify this arrangement with the friend’s parents and confirm that they will be home.
- Communicate your expectations – You may feel like you’re stating the obvious, but teens don’t deal well with “gray” areas. Don’t leave room for interpretation.
- Get the cell phone number of your child’s prom date and at least three friends. Let your child know you expect them to answer their phone and respond to your text.
- Establish a “no questions asked” that night pick-up policy. Tell your child that they can be picked up and underscore that he/she should never ride with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs.

## BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

Parents who set a good example through their relationships and social skills have kids who do better in the areas of school, employment, relationships, communication, coping and other life skills.

- Don’t allow your teen to drink or smoke at home – it sends your teen the wrong message and it’s against the law.
- Be mindful of how you speak and act in social situations.
- Think aloud: when you have difficult choices to make, allow kids to see how you work through the issues, weigh the pros and cons, and make decisions. That way, the child will be able to follow reasoning, decision-making and how to make good choices.
- Have humility and willingness to make mistakes. Nobody is perfect. By apologizing, admitting your mistake, and accepting accountability, you will be demonstrating an often overlooked part of being a role model.

## TRANSPORTATION

Many kids choose to take a limo or party bus to the prom – which can also provide an opportunity for drinking or drug use.

- Speak directly to the driver and discuss your expectations for an alcohol and drug free ride.
- Inspect the limousine, including the trunk, to make sure it is alcohol and drug free.
- Emphasize to the driver not to allow **ANY** beverages that are open or have the seal broken to prevent “spiking” of beverages.
- Tell the driver that you do not want any stops made along the way to or from the prom.
- Give your child the unconditional option of calling you to pick them up at any time of day or night without question.



## DISCUSS THE CONSEQUENCES

Set fixed “house rules” regarding health and safety. Allow your teen to weigh in on some of the rules, but maintain the final say.

- Try to keep the consequences supportive; make sure they are about teaching, not about retaliation. They should be logical and not excessively harsh.
- Be practical and follow through. You must be able to enforce them consistently if they are to be effective.
- Use the power of praise to reinforce positive behavior. Set some rewards and special privileges for your teen for following the rules.
- Consequences aren’t only for punishment; they keep teens alert and mindful about breaking the rules, and help slow them down when they’re faced with a risky choice.
- Everyone has a camera. It is important to tell kids that, with security cameras and cell phone cameras readily available, they should not behave in public in ways that they might find embarrassing on YouTube or other social media.
- Colleges can rescind an offer. College acceptances can be revoked for getting expelled from school or illegal behavior.

## THE THREE Cs OF SAFETY

### The Conversation

Discuss with your child a complete itinerary for the evening, including where they will be, who they will be with and the phone numbers where they can be reached.

### The Chariot

How are they getting to and from the prom? Talk with your child about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Arrange for alternate transportation; limo or party bus.

### The Connection

Your child needs to be reachable at all times. Make sure your child has a working, charged cell phone and establish mandatory call-in times.