

PARTY WITH A PLAN

1. **Know** who is at your party. Be careful about letting friends of friends of friends into your home. At some point this friend of a friend of a friend is really a stranger.
2. If you're serving alcohol make sure that everyone at your party is over 21. Saying that you were keeping minors away from the alcohol doesn't work. You can still get busted for serving them. How do you make this happen? Card people at the door. Don't take their word for it.
3. **Keep** your neighbors happy by keeping down the noise. Too much noise usually means that you may find the police knocking on your door.
4. If you really care about your friends make sure that if a group drives in together that one of them is a designated driver. Yeah this can be sort of a drag but so is going to your friend's funeral.
5. **According** to Illinois' Social Host Law you can be held financially responsible for damages to property and people. So have fun but don't let things get out of control.
6. **Keep** an eye on how much people are drinking. If a friend is at a point where s/he is losing control it's time to step in and cut them off. Why? Usually when people start losing control it only gets worse and this is the point in time where they end up hurting themselves, hurting someone else, or getting hurt by a so called friend.
7. **Let** your friends know that it's okay if they don't want to drink. Have some non-alcoholic alternatives on hand like fruit juice or pop. This also gives partiers an alternative to switch to when they've had too much to drink.
8. Instead of using the huge 22 ounce plastic cups help your friends stay in control by using the smaller 12 ounce cups.
9. **Don't** forget to have some snacks on hand. Eating won't keep your guests from getting drunk but it will slow down how quickly alcohol is absorbed into their system.
10. **Steer** clear of having drinking games at your party. Why? Because partiers get so caught up in the competition they drink way more than they normally would. When that happens binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, and an out of control party are just around the corner.

