

Question; Graduation is getting close and I am getting worried about my daughter. She wants to go to a supervised drinking party to celebrate with her class. The parents will be taking the keys at the door. My first instinct was to say, “NOWAY,” however, I am afraid she will go drinking anyway; should I just keep her at the party where adults are around. I am in between a rock and a hard spot.

First, do not buy into the, “**they are going to drink anyway**” game and you **ARE** the **Rock** and the **Hard Spot** for your teens where drinking is concerned. When we accept early drinking as reality we no longer leave any options for our teens and give underage drinking a big stamp of approval. I see the majority of teens each year enjoy graduation alcohol free.

WE have to insist that there is another reality-teens having fun and celebrating without alcohol. This confounds me; we adults give our kids the world of drinking and then do not understand how it happens.

Graduation is a big deal, but remember, if they don’t get through this spring safe - a graduation party isn’t going to seem like such a big deal. Go with your first instinct, “**NO WAY**”, your teen is going to be mad as heck, but it is your job to keep that kid safe, so do not lower your standards for even one evening. I saw a commercial recently regarding teens it conveyed the message that if your decisions about alcohol has made your teen mad ~ it was likely the right decision.

I would keep close tabs on your graduating teen this spring and insist on a sober celebration. Remember, your teen has lots of friends, what they need most during these hard years are PARENTS.

If we are called for a crash or other incident with teens from that “supervised drinking party” the first people I would charge would be the parents giving the party and hit them with everything I could find. Civil court will be even scarier.