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For questions or more information please contact:

Lynsi Mayfield
RPC Director
Red Rock RPC
90 N. 31st
Clinton, OK 73601
(580)323-9736
lynsim@red-rock.com

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Prom, Underage Drinking, and Parents



Prom is quickly approaching and it is imperative that students and parents understand that underage drinking is unacceptable. In Oklahoma, 66% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in 2014* and with the increased opportunity for underage use during prom season, parents should be talking to their children about the dangers of drinking alcohol.

Parents can help their children avoid alcohol problems by: Serving as positive role models, not making alcohol or a place to consume alcohol available, getting to know their children's friends, connecting with other parents about sending clear messages about the importance of not drinking alcohol, supervising parties to make sure there is no alcohol, and encouraging their kids to participate in healthy and fun activities that do not involve alcohol.

It's important to remember that in Oklahoma it is illegal for adults to host a place for underage drinking to occur. In 2011, we passed the first Social Host Law, also known as 'Cody's Law', which holds individuals criminally liable if they host a place for minors to engage in alcohol use. If found guilty, one could receive a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to 5 years in prison.

The parents and youth in our communities need to know that underage drinking is not acceptable. We should all do our part to keep our youth safe, especially during the upcoming prom season.

For more information please contact Lynsi Mayfield at the Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator at 580-323-9736.



*2014 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment results



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