

# Welcome

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**ARCH Community Forum**

**Nov 4, 2009 (7-8:30 pm)**

**Tredyffrin Library, Wayne, PA**

# Purpose of this evening's discussion

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ARCH hopes this evening will provide parents with information about the choices their teens will be making, as well as offer guidance to help everyone feel a little more prepared.



The *“right answers,”* if there are any, will vary by family...

# Thank you...

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Grateful thanks to the following organizations for their support of this program and the youth in our community.

- COAD – Chester County Council on Addictive Diseases
- Easttown Police Department
- Mainline Health Services
- Tredyffrin/Easttown School District
- Tredyffrin Police Department

# Disclaimer

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The scenarios presented are a work of fiction, though they are meant to be realistic, they are not real.

**Any resemblance to actual persons or events is entirely coincidental.**

# Scenario 1

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**Your 8th grade son is invited to a sleepover at a friend's house with five (5) other guys he has hung out with for years.**

**Prior to the sleepover, you learn that one of the boys (he won't say who) is planning to bring some alcohol in his overnight bag.**

# Discussion Points

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**Brief recap:** You learn before a party that someone is thinking of sneaking alcohol into the event.

## Discussion points:

- Do you call the parent who's having the party?
- **Twist...** What if the party is at your house? Will you call all the parents? What do you say?
- Do you presume that your child is innocent because he told you?

Food for thought...

**Is there “guilt by association” if  
your child is socializing with kids  
that drink?**

# Scenario 2

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**Family A has two children, son 15 and daughter 13 years old. All four (mom, dad & kids) go to an 18th birthday party at their close friends' house, Family B.**

**Family B has two children, one is turning 18, the other is 21 years old. During the family party, the birthday girl is allowed to drink beer.**

**The kids in Family A are surprised and ask their parents about this.**

# Discussion Points

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**Brief recap:** Family friends serve their underage children in presence of your family.

## Discussion points:

- If you are mom/dad in Family A, do you say anything to your children during the party?
- How do you discuss different rules for different families with your children?
- **Twist...** What if it were Thanksgiving, and it's your brother and sister-in-law who are allowing their underage daughter to drink?

# Food for thought...

**It's against the law to sell or give alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21.**

Penalties include a fine of \$1,000 - \$2,500 for the first violation, \$2,500 for each subsequent violation, and up to a year in jail.

**Conviction on any of these will leave you with a criminal record.**

# Scenario 3

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**Your 9th grade child attends a party. The evening goes smoothly with no apparent incidents. You assumed the parents were home at the time of the party.**

**Two days after the party, your child informs you that there was pot at the party and many of his friends got high.**

# Discussion Points

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**Brief recap:** After a party, you learn from your child that getting high or drinking went on at a party. Your child says that he did neither.

## Discussion points:

- Do you believe your child, since he told you about it in the first place?
- Do you call the host/hostess of the party?
- What do you say to your child about future parties with these friends?

# Food for thought...

Does your pre-teen or teen know how to gracefully remove himself from a situation that involves drinking?

If he's not the one drinking, do you want him to remove himself from the situation?

If he calls for you to pick him up from a sleepover, will you pick him up, no questions asked?

# Scenario 4

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It's April and Carla, a high school senior, tells her mom that she is going to a party at Sophia's house.

Carla's mom calls Sophia's mom to ask about the party.

“Will you be at home during the party?” “Yes.”

“Will there be alcohol allowed?” “No.”

Days or weeks later, Carla's mom learns that there was alcohol served at the party and Sophia's mom was fully aware (on the night of the party) that the kids were drinking.

Carla's mom approaches Sophia's mom and says, “I'm surprised to hear there was beer served at the party at your house. I called and you told me there wouldn't be any alcohol.”

Sophia's mom responds, “*What? I took away everyone's keys.*”

# Discussion Points

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**Brief recap:** family hosts a party and either knows alcohol is being served and doesn't stop it, or does not supervise the party well enough to prevent drinking.

## Discussion points:

- Would you have brought it up to the host mom?
- Do you believe A) other parents' version of events, B) your child's version of events?
- How much information (not hearsay) do you need to be sure?

# Food for thought...

What do you do with the fact that you can not control all situations?

Is it your child's responsibility to remove herself from a drinking situation?

Does your teen know how to leave a situation and still "save face?"

# Scenario 5

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**You get awakened by a phone call at 11:30 pm from the local police. They call to advise you that they have your 17 year old child at a party and she has been drinking.**

**(If the police take her to the police station, you are asked to meet her there. If not you are to meet her at the party location.)**

# Discussion Points

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**Brief recap:** Your 17 year old child gets caught at a party under the influence and you get a call from the police

## Discussion points:

- What questions go through your mind as you drive to meet your child?
- Do you contact the parents where the party was held?
- Is there anything parents should know before talking with the police?

Food for thought...

**Do you expect that your child will  
drink or get high at some point  
during her/his teen years?**

# What's next?

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**Keep an open dialogue with your child.  
Set clear expectations together AND  
listen to what they are telling you.**



December 8, 2009 Parent Workshop...  
**Setting Healthy Boundaries with your Teen**

6:30-8:00 pm at the East Brandywine Township Bldg.  
*(1214 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown)*

This FREE parenting seminar is offered by The Parent Network,  
a sister organization to ARCH in the Great Valley School District Area.  
See handout for contact information.

*The “right answers,” if there are any, will vary by family...*

# More what's next...

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Save the date ... **APRIL 7, 2010 7pm**

**Our Kids Feel Pressure  
On and Off the Playing Field:  
What can Parents Do?**

Speaker: **Robert Rigby**,  
former player US National Soccer Team, turned coach, teacher,  
Student Assistance Administrator and Private Therapist.

Sponsored by ARCH

# ARCH

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We are a coalition of parents, educators, and community members committed to promoting the well being of youth in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. We will serve as a resource to families as they help their children form a positive self-image, make healthy choices, and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD).