

Home Alone – A Program to Prevent Underage Substance Use in our Community



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The South Portland Police Department, South Portland School Department, and SoPo Unite are partnering on a program aimed at promoting youth safety and preventing substance use.

ABOUT THE *HOME ALONE* PROGRAM

When adults go away overnight and their teenagers stay at home, these unsupervised times can increase the risk for parties and gatherings. Sometimes these gatherings involve alcohol and other substances and create a need for the police to respond.

The *Home Alone* program allows you to register your home for safety checks while you are away. It is designed to decrease the number of parties where underage substance use occurs, keep your teens safe, and your home free from damage.

HOW IT WORKS

The *Home Alone* program is a free service for area parents and is designed to be a partnership between parents and police. When you plan to leave your teen at home while you are away, you may register your home for drive-by safety checks with the South Portland Police Department.

Registration information includes your name, address, the dates you will be away, and your contact information. If the police notice anything out of the ordinary in their safety check, they will notify you with the contact information you provide.

Go to the sidebar to register for the program, either electronically or by printing the registration form.

Did you know?

- Teen brains are still developing until age 25. The longer a young person waits to use, the less likely they are to have problems with substance use later in life.
- Purchase/possession of alcohol by people under the age of 21 is illegal in all 50 states.
- If you allow underage drinking in your home, you are in violation of Maine State Law. Conviction is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. Additionally, you may be held responsible through Civil Action resulting in significant monetary liability.

EMPOWER your teens to make safe choices while you are away.

By communicating with your teens about the dangers of using substances you are showing your teens that you care. By participating in the *Home Alone* program, you are showing your teens and others that you do not support underage substance use.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lieutenant Todd Bernard or Officer Ryan Le, or Director of SoPo Unite.

South Portland Police Department

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SoPo Unite All Ages, All In

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