



Checklist for Sending Teens to College

As our teens prepare to leave for college, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your child.

Health Issues

- Create a plan for health matters and what to do in the event of a medical emergency
- Discuss street drugs and the negative ramifications if used
- Obtain a power of attorney or Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) release

Safety Concerns

- Discuss how to contact security on the campus in the event of an emergency
- Discuss how to report sexual abuse and where to seek help

Property Concerns

If your student is staying **on** campus:

- Parents and guardians can secure insurance coverage through their homeowners policy
 - Take an inventory of all items taken to school, listed by cost in the event of a loss
 - Valuable items may be insured as an endorsement to the policy or by a personal property floater, which covers property

If your student is staying **off** campus, obtain:

- Renters policy in the name of your child
- Umbrella policy in the name of your child
- If a parent or guardian cosigns for the lease, add that location to your homeowners policy and umbrella policy
 - Consider increasing liability limits on the homeowners and umbrella policy to offset the increased liability exposure

Internet Concerns

- Advise your teen to limit use of public Wi-Fi
- Tell your teen to never share passwords
- Advise your teen to not access bank accounts or financial sites on shared computers
- Install antivirus protection on all computers and mobile devices
- Set up strong passwords and two-factor authentication when available

Financial Concerns

Consider sharing the following tips with your teen on credit card usage:

- Pay the balance promptly and pay more than the monthly minimum
- Do not exceed the credit limit
- If you can pay with cash, check, or a debit card, do not use the credit card
- Do not finance living expenses with a credit card — reserve credit cards for emergencies
- Look for a card with a low annual percentage interest rate
- Credit increases should not be permitted without parent or guardian approval

Review credit card statements regularly and opt for instant notifications from your banking institution for any charges above a pre-established amount.

Automobile Concerns

If the vehicle is kept at home:

- If the school is more than 100 miles away, you may be entitled to a credit on your auto policy
- The liability exposure is reduced
- Keep your child listed on the auto policy

If the vehicle is kept at school:

- Establish a clear rule: **no one else drives the car**
- Increase your auto liability and excess liability limits to offset the exposure

While Your Teen Is At College:

Keep in touch. Things may change; new issues may arise. Keeping the lines of communication open is imperative to maintaining and updating a risk management strategy as your teen's life evolves.

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