

# SOCIAL HOSTING AND UNDERAGE DRINKING



## The Facts

- **Social hosting** refers to hosting a party or gathering where alcohol is available.
- It's illegal for an adult to provide alcohol to persons younger than 21 or allow minors to consume alcohol on that adult's property if the adult is not a parent or guardian of those minors.
- Parents who allow their children to invite friends to a party with alcohol — even if supervised — could face **criminal charges** and **civil penalties**.
- Social hosting laws are designed to protect minors and the community from the sometimes deadly consequences of underage drinking.



## The Consequences

### Civil Penalties

You can face civil penalties for damages caused by a minor younger than 18 if you:

- Knowingly served or provided any alcohol that contributed to their intoxication.
- Or knowingly allowed them to be served or provided any alcohol that contributed to the minor's intoxication on property owned or leased by you.

### Criminal Charges

You can face a Class A Misdemeanor, punishable by:

- A fine up to \$4,000; and/or
  - Up to one year in jail; and
  - suspension, or denial of issuance, of his/her driver's license.
- **Note: Only applies if you are not the minor's parent, spouse or legal guardian.**



## Tips for Prevention

- Don't try to create house rules, take car keys or ask permission from other parents to serve alcohol. You'll still be held responsible!
- Celebrate major milestones and events without alcohol, like with a concert, day at the theme park or camping trip.
- Be a model for making healthy choices.



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