



Fact Sheet Underage Drinking Laws

Public awareness campaign

Subject: Underage Drinking

Target Audience: Parents of Teens

Objective: Inform parents that:

- **It is illegal to host or allow teen drinking parties in your home or camp.**
- **Alcohol use is harmful to the teenage brain.**

What parents should know:

- As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21, even in your own home and with their parent's permission.
- You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.
- Because of the changes occurring in the teenage brain, alcohol appears to produce bigger impairments in learning and more widespread brain damage in adolescents than adults.

If you break the law:

- You can face a maximum sentence of up to one year in jail and up to \$2,000 fine.
- If someone is injured or killed as a result of the alcohol you supplied, you could be charge with a **FELONY**.
- You can be **SUED**. If you allow minors to consume alcohol in your home or camp, your homeowner's insurance policy may not provide adequate protection when serious injury occurs. You can be **HELD RESPONSIBLE** if a serious injury occurs on or away from your premises (**EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT HOME**). You can **PREVENT TRADEGIES** by stopping teenage drinking.

Things you can do as a parent:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Be at home when your teen has a party.
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends.
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending.
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens feel welcome.
- Report underage drinking to your local law enforcement.