Alcohol is Youth's #1 Drug of Choice!

Why Is Underage Drinking a Problem?

 National research shows that 57% of persons under 21

reported drinking at friends' homes. 1

- Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and 50% 65% of youth suicides.² Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students.³
- Research shows people who begin drinking alcohol as adolescents are more likely to become chemically dependent.
- Underage drinking parties pose a high risk to young people because of the number of drinkers involved and the large quantities of alcohol consumed. These parties often result in alcohol poisoning, traffic crashes, property damage, sexual assault, and other crime and violence.

In 2005, underage drinking cost Minnesota citizens \$916 Millions.⁴

Abuse, 2001.

Important Telephone Numbers

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Ambulance, Fire, Police Emergency	9-1-1
• Minn. Mothers Against Drunk Driving	800-ITS-MADD
• National Addiction Assistance Helpline	800 559-9503
Alcoholics Anonymous	800 245-1377
• Al-Anon / Al Teen Resource Services	651-771-2208
• Crisis Connection	612-379-6363
• Bridges to Safety	651-266-9901
• Minn. Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline	866-223-1111
 Nat'l Domestic Violence Hotline 	800-799-SAFE
• Nar-Anon Families & Friends of Addicts	800 484-7385
 Narcotics Anonymous Helpline 	952-989-3939
 National Hopeline Network – 	800-SUICIDE
Suicide Prevention Hotline	
- National Dunasuras Curitable and	OOO DIINIANAAA

National Runaway Switchboard
 National Youth Crisis Hotline
 Parents Anonymous/Family Helpline
 Poison Control Center
 Rape Crisis Hotline
 Rape & Sexual Abuse Center Hotline
 Sexual Violence Center

• United Way Community Resource Hotline 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211 or 800-543-7709

USEFUL WEBSITES

Minnesota MADD <u>www.maddmn.org</u>
 Hero Campaign <u>www.herocampaign.org</u>
 Parent Helpline & Support

• Parents – The Anti-Drug www.linkup-parents.com www.theantidrug.com

National Institute on Drug Abuse www.nida.nih.gov

• Alcoholics Anonymous

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

• Al-Anon / Al Teen Resource Services

www.Al-Anon-Alateen-msp.org

• Narcotics Anonymous www.naminnesota.org

• For Teenagers <u>www.abovetheinfluence.com</u>

Contact the St. Paul Police Department at (651) 291-1111 to report parties or gatherings where minors have access to alcohol. Your call may prevent...

- motor vehicle crashes
- sexual assault
- unintentional injuries
- alcohol poisoning



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

HOSTING A PARTY?

What you need to know about the Social Host Law.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, 2008; National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 2002; and American Medical Association, Office of Alcohol/Drug Abuse, 2001.

National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.
 American Medical Association, Office of Alcohol/Drug

⁴<u>http://www.udetc.org/UnderageDrinkingCosts.asp</u>

What Is the Social Host Ordinance?

The Social Host Ordinance would hold individuals (social hosts) criminally responsible for hosting or allowing an event or gathering on private or public property where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol, regardless of who supplied the alcohol.

This ordinance applies to situations in which:

- The social host knows or reasonably should know that alcohol is being possessed or consumed by persons under 21 years of age at their residence or premises.
- The social host fails to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s) at any event that s/he is hosting on public or private property.

Under this ordinance, the social host does not have to be present at the party, event or gathering to be criminally responsible.

What Is an "Event or Gathering"?

An "event or gathering" means a group of persons who have assembled on private property or in a public place for a social occasion or a social activity.

What Steps Should You Take to Be a Responsible Social Host?

The steps you take to protect your guests, yourself and others will reduce your exposure to alcohol-related liability. If you are hosting a party where persons under 21 years of age are present, you should...

- 1. Verify the age of guests.
- 2. Control access to alcohol.
- 3. Control the quantity of alcohol.

- 4. Supervise persons under 21 years of age.
- 5. Be courteous to your neighbors and keep the party noise down.
- 6. Refuse entrance to uninvited guests, especially the ones who arrive at the door with alcohol or are already intoxicated.
- 7. Call the Police for assistance with uninvited guests.

What Is the Penalty for Violating this Ordinance?

A violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Are There Any Exceptions?

The ordinance does not apply to...

- Conduct solely between an underage person and his/ her parents in the parent's household.
- Legally protected religious observances.
- Facilities otherwise licensed (bars, liquor stores, etc.).
- Situations where underage persons are lawfully in possession of alcohol during the course of employment.
- Law enforcement activities supervised by a law enforcement agency.
- Landlord, mortgagee, college, university, hotel/motel owner and operator who has not actually participated in hosting or allowing the party where alcohol is present.

Isn't Underage Drinking Already Illegal?

• Yes. Minnesota law prohibits minors under age 21 from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol. It also prohibits adults from furnishing alcohol to minors.

Why Is There A Need for this Ordinance?

- This law was enacted to prevent underage drinking parties and hold the hosts of such parties accountable since many youth obtain alcohol through social sources such as older friends, siblings, parents and/or strangers.
- It is worded carefully to target chronic offenders whose guests' behavior disturbs their neighbors, damages property and/or jeopardizes their own or others' safety.

Will I Be Held Liable if I Am Away for the Weekend and my Kids Have a Party At My Home?

- No. If you did not know about the party, event or gathering.
- Yes. If you knew about the party or had reason to know that underage drinking was occurring and did nothing to prevent it.

If My Housemate Hosts a Party in Our Apartment While I Am Away, Can I Still Be Held Criminally Liable?

• Maybe. It depends on what knowledge you have about the party and what actions if any you took to prevent it.

Can I Be Held Liable if my Tenant Has an Underage Drinking Party on My Property?

• Maybe. It depends on whether or not you actually participated in hosting or allowing the party where alcohol was present.

I Live in a Dorm Room and Have a Party. Can I Be Held Criminally Liable?

• Yes. Since you control your room, the ordinance applies.