

# social HOSTING

**Social Hosting** is providing and/or serving alcoholic beverages to people who are under the minimum drinking age of 21. It may take place during parties or other gatherings and it refers to **any adult** who provides alcohol to teenagers.

## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Giving alcohol to teenagers sends the message that it's okay to break the law. Even though some parents and other adults believe they are providing a "safe" environment where teens can drink, the truth is there's no such thing as a "safe" environment when underage drinking is involved. Underage drinkers can act in unpredictable ways – leaving you liable for damage or injuries that may occur.

## CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL HOSTING

- Prosecution resulting in jail time, fines, or both.
- Being held civilly liable for medical bills or property damage.
- An increase in homeowner's insurance rates.
- Being responsible for the events that led to another's injury or death.

## GREAT GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS:

### WHEN HOSTING

- Avoid sending mass invitations and limit the number of guests.
- Let all guests know up front that the use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will not be tolerated.
- If a teen shows up drunk or brings alcohol, call his or her parents at once.

## THE DANGERS OF UNDERAGE DRINKING

Underage drinkers are at a higher risk for:

- Impaired brain and physical development.
- Alcohol or substance abuse issues later in life.
- Contracting sexually transmitted infections.
- Dying from alcohol poisoning.

### WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING A PARTY

- Insist that your teen checks in with you regularly.
- Verify that a responsible adult is supervising the party and that no alcohol will be served.
- Caution them about riding with drivers who have been drinking or using drugs.
- Set a firm curfew as well as serious consequences for breaking it.

### WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF TOWN

- Ask a responsible adult or local law enforcement to keep an eye on the house while you're away.
- Establish a strict "No Party" policy while you are gone.

### OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

- Get to know your teen's friends and their parents.
- Give your teen and their friends plenty of opportunities for fun, alcohol-free activities.
- Make sure your teen knows how underage drinking can affect his or her future.

Help Teens Become **HAPPY** and **DRUG-FREE ADULTS!**