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.
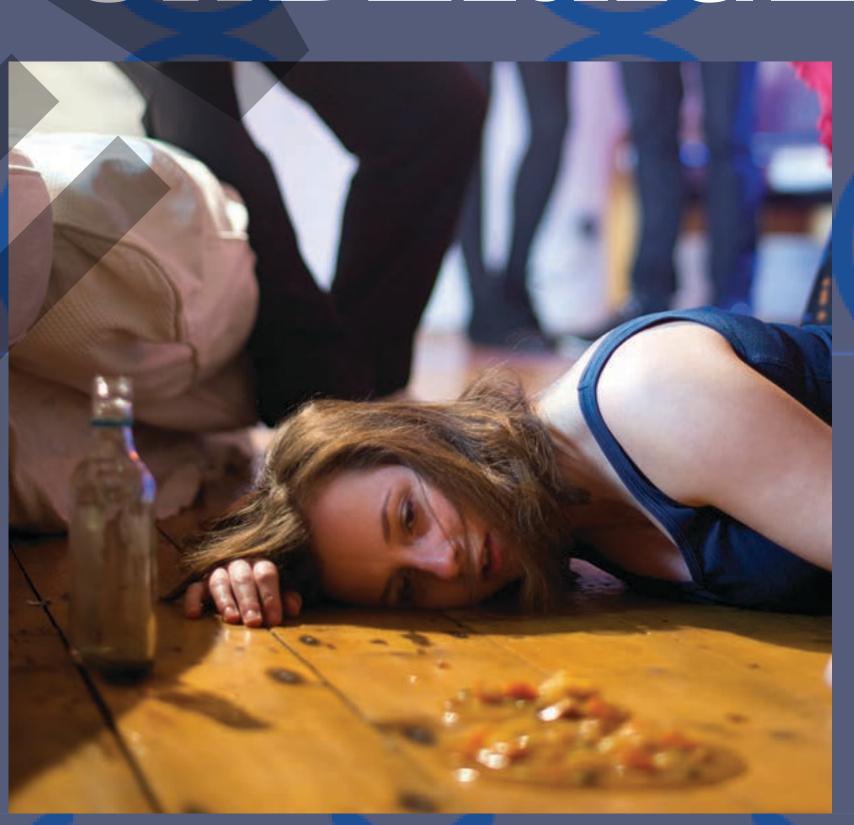- Being responsible for the events that led to another's injury or death.

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!