



# SOCIAL HOSTING

## Set the Rules, Know the Laws

**Providing and allowing minors under 21 to drink in Connecticut is against the law.**

- > Anyone under 21 is prohibited from possessing alcohol on public or private property unless accompanied by their own parent or guardian.
- > Minors may be fined for violating the law.
- > Individuals who knowingly permit minors to possess or consume alcohol may be fined, imprisoned, or both.
- > Anyone who owns or controls private property, including a dwelling unit, is prohibited from knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, permitting anyone under age 21 to illegally possess alcohol in the unit or on the property.

**Six quick tips to help parents keep their children safe, healthy and alcohol-free:**

1. Don't think "it's not MY child" because every child is at risk.
2. Remember that YOU are the biggest influence in your child's life:  
*The more you connect with your children the less likely they'll be to give in to peer pressure.*
3. Don't be fooled that alcohol use is a right of passage:  
*It can damage an adolescent's developing brain.*
4. Establish specific rules and consequences:  
*Tell your children they are not allowed to drink, that underage drinking will not be tolerated, and enforce it.*
5. Be involved and monitor your child's activities:  
*Don't allow youth drinking at home. Teens who are allowed to drink alcohol in their home consume twice as much alcohol as those with a no-tolerance policy.*
6. Be a positive model:  
*Drink responsibly and let your teen see you decline alcohol from time to time, as well.*

***YOU are the most influential person in your child's life because:***

- 65% of kids get their alcohol from family or friends.
- Kids who drink before age 15 are FOUR times more likely to have alcohol problems when they are adults.

**Parents are the KEY to preventing underage drinking.**