



**PLEASE DON'T PROVIDE  
ALCOHOL OR OTHER  
DRUGS TO TEENS.  
it's unsafe. it's illegal.  
it's irresponsible.**

**FACT: When kids drink, parents pay**

In Illinois, the Social Host Law, which went into effect January 1, 2013, holds adults accountable for underage drinking that occurs in the home. There are several parts to this law.

- If you allow or host a party at your house (includes, but is not limited to not only residences, but any property controlled by an individual, including a hotel/motel room, limousine, bus, boat, or rental unit) and provide alcohol to people under age 21 (or if you know or should have known that they are drinking alcohol), you are guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. This will result in a fine. Note that you are held responsible regardless if you are the one who provides the alcohol AND regardless if you are home or not.
- If a minor who was drinking at your house injures or kills someone, you are guilty of a Class 4 felony. This could result in both a fine and/or jail time.
- You will not be guilty of violating the law if you request help from the police to help remove the underage drinkers and stop the gathering. This only holds if you make the first phone to call—not if the police show up after a complaint from a neighbor and then you ask for help.
- In addition, depending on local community ordinances, you may also be held responsible for the costs of emergency services/law enforcement that respond to a call, attorney fees and other costs associated.

**FACT: When kids drink alcohol, 65% of the time it is consumed at home or a friend's house.**

As responsible parents you need to not only prevent access to alcohol in your home but also be a positive role model. Your kids need to know where you stand on underage drinking through ongoing conversations about consequences. And, you need to give them the tools and the ammo to make good decisions about drinking in the many different scenarios they may encounter—at a friend's house, at a party, after school.

**Our best tips for parents:**

- Be Aware of Factors That May Increase the Risk of a Child's Alcohol Use
- Be a Positive Adult Role Model
- Support Your Children and Give Them Space to Grow

