

HOSTING A PARTY? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

The City of San Diego's *Social Host Ordinance, SDMC 56.60-56.65*, has been strengthened. If you are hosting a party where minors (under 21) are present, you are now required to...

1. **Verify the age of guests.**
2. **Control access to alcohol.**
3. **Control the quantity of alcohol.**
4. **Supervise minors.**

Violations of this ordinance may be prosecuted criminally, civilly and/or administratively and result in...

- **citation and/or arrest**
- **mandatory minimum fine**
- **reimbursement to the city for cost of police response**

Contact the San Diego Police Department to report parties or gatherings where minors have access to alcohol...
(619) 531-2000

Your call may prevent...

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

A message from the
North City Prevention Coalition
**Call (858) 974-3603 x212 for more
information**

NCPC works collaboratively with community members, leaders and legislative bodies to reduce youth access to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Funds are provided by County of San Diego, HHS, Alcohol and Drug Services.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is underage drinking a problem?

- Underage drinking is associated with the leading causes of death for teens and young adults, including motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide.
- According to local school surveys, nearly half of high school juniors report drinking alcohol in the past month.
- 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.

Isn't underage drinking already illegal?

- State law prohibits minors under age 21 from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol. It also prohibits adults from furnishing alcohol to minors in public.
- The Social Host Ordinance bridges the gap since many youth obtain alcohol through social sources such as older friends, siblings, parents and/or strangers. This law was put in place to prevent underage drinking parties and hold the hosts of such parties accountable.

What is a "social host"?

A social host is anyone who hosts or allows a party, gathering or event where minors are consuming alcohol beverages. A "party, gathering or event" means a group of persons who have assembled on private property or in a public place for a social occasion or a social activity.

Are there any exceptions?

The ordinance does not apply to parents supervising their own children (during private meals and/or religious ceremonies, for example).