

Teens and Alcohol - What Parents Need To Know

What will happen to an underage person who gets caught drinking, purchasing, or possessing alcohol?

Any person who presents false identification to purchase alcoholic beverages can receive a fine of up to \$100 and/or an appropriate amount of community service not to exceed 30 hours. In addition, there can be a 90-day suspension of the driver's license of anyone who has used it to illegally purchase or attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages.

May a parent serve alcohol to teens and their friends at a parent supervised party?

No, the law applies to all situations in which an underage person is served alcohol by anyone but her/his parents. A parent serving the young friends alcohol would be committing a Class A Misdemeanor under Penal Law Section 260.20, which allows a parent or guardian to furnish liquor or beer to his or her child only. The Social Host Law also applies, exposing the parent to civil liability for any injury or property damage caused by the minor as a result of intoxication.

What is the Social Host Law?

Under General Obligation Law Section 11-100, any person who is injured by a minor who is intoxicated, or whose ability is impaired, may sue for the resulting damage a person who knowingly provided the alcohol to the minor.

May children drink at home with their parents, or be served wine as part of a religious service?

Yes, a parent or guardian may serve alcohol to only his or her own child under 21 and only at home or as part of a religious service. However, the Social Host Law also applies to this situation.

What does the 21 legal purchase age law mean?

It means you must be 21 years old to buy alcoholic beverages in bars, taverns, restaurants and clubs or to buy those beverages in liquor stores and supermarkets. It is also illegal for any person, over or under 21, to buy alcoholic beverages for, or give them to, anyone under 21 (except his or her child).

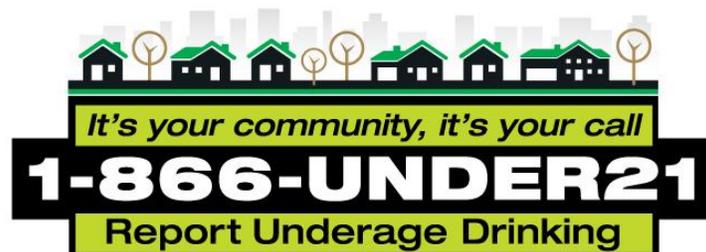
How a DWI conviction affects auto insurance...little known facts!

An insurance company can deny no fault coverage (personal injury protection for medical, rehabilitation and loss of wages) to the driver that causes a motor vehicle crash due to alcohol/drug involvement. An insurance company can deny parents whose child resides with them the standard or preferred rate due to the alcohol related driving offense of their child. In other words, the insurance rates for parents could increase simply because their child lives with them and has an alcohol related driving conviction.

The cost of a DWI conviction (first time offender)

Towing, car storage fees, defense attorney, bail fee, DWI fine, Ignition Interlock Device fees, court surcharges, alcohol evaluation, DWI Victim Impact Panel Session, probation supervision fees, conditional license, drinking driver program fee, DMV civil penalty, DMV license reinstatement fee, driver responsibility assessment fee and auto insurance. Total: \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Help prevent these tragedies by reporting illegal purchase or consumption of alcohol by minors.



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