

# SOCIAL HOST ?



Hosting a party with  
underage drinking  
is not “safer.”  
**It’s illegal!**

## *Think before they drink!*

If people under age 21 possess or consume alcohol on your property, you are considered the **Social Host** and will be held responsible.

If you’re concerned there may be underage drinking, please contact the Warren Police Department.



**Warren Police**

**401.245.1311**

1 Joyce Street, Warren, RI 02885



**Warren**

Prevention Coalition

514 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885

**warrenprevention.com**

# Know the Law

*It's all about the property the crime is committed on.*

## What is the Social Host Law?

The primary purpose of the Social Host Law (RI General Laws 3-8-11.1) is to deter underage drinking parties or gatherings where adults knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol, whether or not they provide it.

## What Are the Penalties?

**First Offense:** Any person over 18 years old who violates the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

**Second and subsequent offenses:** Any person who violates the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year, or both.



You may be required to make restitution or incur criminal charges if someone is hurt, suffers alcohol poisoning, or is killed as a result of drinking alcohol on your property.

*The person in control of the property does not have to be present, does not have to be aware of the drinking, nor do they have to be an adult.*



# Know the REAL Risks

*Beyond the legal and financial.*

Some adults allow teens to have friends over to drink, thinking it's a safe way to keep them off the roads, but is it really safer? In addition to the legal and financial risks, there could be long-term health risks and negative effects on a child's future plans.



## Alcohol and the Brain

Studies show that the brain is not fully developed until a person passes the age 20. Drinking alcohol during adolescence damages parts of the brain responsible for decision-making, self-control, memory and learning.

## Binge Drinking and Youth

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on average, underage drinkers consume more drinks per drinking occasion than adult drinkers, significantly increasing risks to health and safety.

## Alcohol and a Child's Future

A criminal or juvenile record can prevent a young person from getting a job or joining the military. Bad decisions around alcohol can also jeopardize their involvement in school activities, sports or clubs as well as college admissions and financial aid.

# Don't be party to underage drinking.

***You could lose more than you think!***

**Am I breaking the law if I allow my child's underage guest to consume alcohol in my home?**

**Yes.** The legal drinking age in Rhode Island is 21. It is against the law to serve or provide alcohol to underage guests or to allow them to drink alcohol in your home or on property you control.

**Can I be sued if my child or underage guest at my home drinks alcohol and injures someone?**

**Yes.** You may be financially responsible if your child or underage guest injures someone or themselves after having consumed alcohol where you controlled supply, made it available, or served it.

**Does the Social Host Law apply if I rent a hotel or function room for my child's party?**

**Yes,** since you control the hotel or function room, the Social Host Law would apply to you.

**Will my homeowners policy cover the costs of litigation and any judgement against me or my child?**

**You may or may not be covered,** especially if the underage drinker causes injury or death by use of an automobile. Many insurance policies don't cover situations where criminal conduct is involved.

***Is it really worth it?***