

# Be a *Perfect Host*



When it comes to being a party host, parents must set a good example. It's not okay to host any parties where kids and teens have alcohol or cannabis. It puts their safety and well-being at risk. And it puts you at risk for arrest, fines, and even losing your home insurance.

Use the insights in this fact sheet to host events that keep young people safe from alcohol.

## **Connecticut Social Host Law**

- Makes homeowners fully responsible for any alcohol use by minors on their property, regardless of whether or not they are aware of it.
- Established in 2012 and expanded in 2021 to include adult-use cannabis.
- First violation is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine up to \$2,000.
- If you are found to have provided alcohol or cannabis to minors, you can be charged with a Class E felony punishable by up to 18 months in jail and a fine up to \$3,500.
- Anyone who owns, rents, or controls property (indoor or outdoor) where a party is held can be charged as a host under this law. This includes homeowners, landowners, parents, and guardians.
- Since there is no minimum age to be considered a host, young people may also be charged. This includes teens who throw a party while parents are out of town.

## *Did You Know?*

**Depending on your homeowners insurance policy, you may be liable for property damages and injuries caused by people who use alcohol or cannabis in your home.**

**STEPS**  
TO  
**KNOW MORE**



Find more resources at:  
[southingtonsteps.org/steps-to-know-more/](https://southingtonsteps.org/steps-to-know-more/)



## How Alcohol Affects Teens

Research shows that when teens drink alcohol, it may have big effects on how their brains work.

- The earlier a person drinks alcohol, the more likely it is to impact cognitive functions, memory, and school performance over time.
- Excessive drinking during adolescence is linked to changes in the brain. This includes:
  - ➔ Frontal lobe (planning and decision-making)
  - ➔ Hippocampus (learning and memory)
  - ➔ Amygdala (fear-sensing)
  - ➔ Corpus callosum (communication between the two sides of the brain)

## Alcohol and Unsafe Behaviors

Data links alcohol use to higher risks for unsafe behaviors and their serious health impacts.

- Accidental injury and death (falls, burns, drowning, etc.)
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol
- Physical and sexual assault (as either victim and/or perpetrator)
- Suicide
- Unsafe sexual behavior
- Use of other substances (cannabis, opioids, etc.)

*Did You Know?*

**More than 90% of all alcohol consumed by youth is consumed through binge drinking.**

## Action Steps

Here are some clear action steps you can take to keep young people safe from alcohol use.

- Have clear rules that nobody under age 21 can have alcohol or cannabis in your home.
- Make sure your family has open, honest conversations about substance use.
- Never give alcohol or cannabis to any person under the age of 21.
- Store alcohol and cannabis and lock it up where young people cannot access it.
- If your kids or teens are going to a party or sleepover at a friend's home, speak to their friend's parents/guardians to confirm the plans.
- If you're hosting a party or sleepover in your home, check any bags that your kid's friends bring with them.

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