

Social Host: *noun*

Any person who provides the location for people under 21 to drink alcohol.

Who is a Social Host?

Oklahoma's Social Host law puts a shared responsibility for underage drinking on the person providing the location for the gathering. Adults or minors can be cited and fined under the Social Host law.



Pontotoc County Drug Free Coalition

United to reduce substance abuse

Visit us at www.pcdfc.org for more information or to get involved.

Oklahoma's Social Host Law:

- **Property Owners are Accountable.** If people under 21 are gathered and drinking on private property, the person who provides the location is considered the Social Host, and will be held accountable.
- **Accountability Goes Beyond the Party.** A "Social Host" can be a minor or adult and does not have to be physically present or the actual property owner.
- **Fines are Immediate.** Social Host violations carry a first-time fine of up to \$500.
- **Adults and Minors are Accountable.** If someone is injured or killed because of a Social Host violation, you can be charged with a felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine up to \$2,500.
- **Repeat Offenders Can go to Prison.** Fines increase with additional violations – three strikes gets you a felony conviction with up to 5 years in prison and a fine up to \$2,500.

Find out more at:

www.oklahomasocialhost.com



Oklahoma's Social Host Law

OKLAHOMANS
WHO HOST
STAND TO
THE MOST

Don't give people under 21 a place to drink.

www.oklahomasocialhost.com



fam·i·ly: noun

a basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group.

Keeping kids safe from alcohol is everyone's job.

Our Kids Are Worth It!

Oklahoma is a great place to raise a family. That's because we care about community: We're looking out for our neighbors' families, not just our own. Because that's the kind of people we are.

Underage drinking hurts kids — there's no two ways about it.

- 40% of Oklahoma high school students are current drinkers, with 20% having their first drink before age 13. (YRBS, 2009)
- Most Oklahoma teens report getting alcohol from "social sources" – friends, family, and other people.
- Underage drinking cost the citizens of Oklahoma \$831 million in 2010 in youth violence/injury, traffic crashes, property crime, and other consequences. (PIRE, 2011)
- In 2009, kids under 21 consumed 20% of all alcohol sold in Oklahoma. (PIRE, 2011)

And in a community like ours, it's our responsibility to make sure these things don't happen to any kid.

It's the Law

Oklahoma's Social Host law means it's up to you to make sure kids don't drink in your home or on your property. The law is clear: If kids under age 21 are drinking alcohol at a gathering, and you're providing the location for that gathering, you're responsible — whether you're an adult or a minor, and whether you rent, own, or simply provide the location. Fines for the first offense are up to \$500.

They're All Our Kids

It's unthinkable to imagine your child in a drunk-

driving crash, a fight, engaging in risky sexual activity or any incident caused by underage drinking. And there's no doubt you'd do anything in your power to keep that from happening.

But would it be acceptable if something like this happened to your child's best friend? Your nephew? Your neighbor's kid? Any kid?

Of course it wouldn't. That's why it's so important that we do everything in our power to keep alcohol away from kids. Because they're all our kids. They're Oklahoma's kids. And Oklahomans look out for their own.

What you can do to prevent social hosting/underage drinking:

- **Talk** to your child. Tell him or her directly and clearly that it is illegal and unacceptable to drink before age 21, and that you expect him/her not to drink until then. Make sure you specifically mention the Social Host law, and its consequences to you and your child.
- **Report** underage drinking, parties, or alcohol sales to minors.
- **Take** preventive measures at events — weddings, holiday parties, and family gatherings, for example.
- **Make** your expectations clear: to your child's friends, their families, and your family.
- **Support** your local police department as they enforce this law.