



**THE MIDDLESEX
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR YOUTH** INC.

BE A PARENT, NOT A PAL

Understanding the Social Host Liability Law

DAILY NEWS

**Police arrest couple
for violating social
host law**

**Teen charged with
supplying alcohol
to peers**

**Parent gets jail for
permitting teenage drinking**

**Police Bust Underage
Drinking Party . . . 31
Teens Arrested**

**Party Host Liable for
\$2M in Damages After
Drunk Driving Crash**

M.G.L. c. 138, § 34

It is illegal to furnish alcohol for a person under 21 years of age

The Social Host Law is broad:

- “Furnish” can mean supply, give, provide or allow alcohol use on your premises
- You can be charged even if you are not home or did not give the alcohol to the minor
- A minor can be charged with furnishing alcohol to another minor

Criminal Penalties:

- Up to \$2,000 in fines
- Up to 1 year in jail

BE THE PARENT

- Talk to your teen about the dangers of alcohol.
- Do not let your child drink alcohol if he or she is underage.
- Do not allow your child's friends to drink alcohol or bring alcohol to your house.
- Be engaged and involved when teens are at your home.
- If you are asleep or not home while minors are drinking alcohol in your home, you can still be found criminally and civilly liable.
- Monitor your own alcohol use.
- Consider keeping alcohol in a locked cabinet.

BE EDUCATED

For more information or to learn about Social Host Liability presentations available to your school district call Middlesex Partnerships for Youth at 781.897.6800 or visit us online at

www.middlesexpartnershipsforyouth.org
www.middlesexda.com



Consequences of Underage Drinking

- Can lead to alcohol poisoning
- Increased risk for sexual assault
- Penalties for violating school and the MA Interscholastic Athletic Association's substance use policies

Drunk Driving Can Lead to

- Death and/or serious injury to yourself and others as well as criminal charges
- Long-term loss of driver's license
- Fines of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for 2^{1/2} to 5 years