

## HOSTING A PARTY? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

The County of *San Diego's Social Host Ordinance No. 9791* has been strengthened. If you are hosting a party where minors (under 21) are present, you are now required to...

- 1. verify the age of guests**
- 2. control access to alcohol**
- 3. control the quantity of alcohol**
- 4. supervise minors**

Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor, which can result in...

- **citation and/or arrest**
- **mandatory minimum fine**
- **reimbursement to the county for the cost of police response**

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*Contact the Sheriff's Department to report parties or gatherings where minors have access to alcohol...*  
**Call (858) 565-5200 (non-emergency)**

### **Your call may prevent...**

- **motor vehicle crashes**
- **unintentional injuries**
- **sexual assault**
- **alcohol poisoning**

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A message from the  
San Dieguito Alliance for Drug-free Youth  
**Call (858) 755-6598 for more  
information**

The mission of San Dieguito Alliance for Drug-free Youth is to reduce or prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by youth. Funds are provided by County of San Diego, HHSA, Alcohol and Drug Services.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why is underage drinking a problem?**

- Underage drinking is associated with the leading causes of death for teens and young adults, including motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide.
- According to local school surveys, nearly half of high school juniors report drinking alcohol in the past month.
- Underage drinking parties pose a high risk to young people because of the number of drinkers involved and the large quantities of alcohol consumed. These parties often result in alcohol poisoning, traffic crashes, property damage, sexual assault, and other crime and violence.

### **Isn't underage drinking already illegal?**

- State law prohibits minors under age 21 from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol. It also prohibits adults from furnishing alcohol to minors in public.
- The Social Host Ordinance bridges the gap since many youth obtain alcohol through social sources such as older friends, siblings, parents and/or strangers. This law was put in place to prevent underage drinking parties and hold the hosts of such parties accountable.

### **What is a "social host"?**

A social host is anyone who hosts or allows a party, gathering or event where minors are consuming alcohol beverages. A "party, gathering or event" means a group of persons who have assembled on private property or in a public place for a social occasion or a social activity.

### **Are there any exceptions?**

The ordinance does not apply to parents supervising their own children (during private meals and/or religious ceremonies, for example).