

If it happens in your house- You're Responsible

Social hosting of underage drinking parties is illegal in Connecticut

Connecticut passed its Social Host or “House Party” Law in 2012.

This law made the property owner fully responsible for any underage drinking on their property regardless of whether they were aware of it. Allowing teens to drink in your home or on your property can result in a \$2,000 fine, jail time, probation, or even criminal charges

In addition, under this law:

- If a teen has friends over while the parents are out and those friends bring alcohol to drink, both the teen and the absent parents may be liable.
- Youth under 21 charged with under age drinking may also be subjected to school discipline, fines and suspension/delay to their drivers license.

What can a parent do to keep parties safe and still allow/encourage healthy socializing?

As teens get older, it can be hard to balance freedom and support for developing decision making skill against supervision and safety.

Some suggestions:

- Parent networking is a great prevention tool to combat underage drinking. Get to know your teen's friends and their parents and try to find common ground on social gathering rules.
- Talk to your teen about the social host laws, emphasizing that this is not just your rule, and there are real consequences outside of the family.
- Support alcohol/drug free fun, and healthy risk taking, whenever possible.