

ADULTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST



WHAT ADULTS SHOULD KNOW

- According to Georgia law (O.C.G.A., Section 3-3-23 & 3-5-5):
 - Parents **cannot** give alcohol to their teen's friends who are under age 21, under any circumstances, even in their own home, even with their parents' permission.
 - Adults **cannot** knowingly allow a minor, other than their own child, to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcohol.
 - Beer kegs must be registered and marked for tracking purposes. Retailers must document keg purchasers' name, address, age verification and location where keg will be consumed.
- Georgia's "social host liability" law was created by case law in 1985, allowing the courts to settle lawsuits against adults who serve alcohol negligently.

IF YOU BREAK THE LAW

- **Criminal action** can include various fines, penalties and/or imprisonment.
 - Up to \$1,000 and/or 12 months confinement for a first offense, under state law.
 - Additional penalties vary, under local laws.
- **Civil action** can include *substantial* financial liability if injuries and/or death result from an underage drinking accident.
 - It is not uncommon for salaries and personal property to be garnished as a result of such lawsuits.
 - There have been significant increases in the number of such civil cases in Georgia courts over the past decade.

THIS COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN IS SUPPORTED BY:

COBB SHERIFF, SOLICITOR GENERAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY & PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR;
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH POLICE CHIEFS FROM ACWORTH, AUSTELL, COBB, KENNESAW,
MARIETTA, POWDER SPRINGS AND SMYRNA POLICE DEPARTMENTS

THINGS ADULTS CAN DO

- Refuse to supply alcohol to minors in your home and on your property.
- Be at home and visible if/when teens have a party in your home.
- Store alcohol under lock and key or at least keep track of it.
- Talk to other adults about not providing alcohol at events where minors will be present.
- Clearly communicate family expectations regarding teen drinking, with specific consequences for teens.
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities where teens will feel welcome.
- Call 1-877-CheckID (243-2543) to report commercial alcohol sales violations.
- Call your local police department or the Cobb Sheriff's Office at 770-499-4719 to report underage drinking parties in advance.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The primary source of alcohol for youth under age 21 is in their own home or the home of friends.
- Youth don't provide, promote or profit from alcohol – adults do.
- It's up to adults to stop teen drinking.

- Underage youth who get clear no alcohol use messages from their parents are 5 times less likely to drive after drinking or ride with someone who has been drinking.

WHY 21?

- The 21 MLDA (minimum legal drinking age) saves the lives of well over 1,000 youth each year and when the MLDA is lowered, motor vehicle crashes and deaths among youth increase. At least 50 studies have evaluated this correlation.
- Alcohol is a contributing factor in the 3 leading causes of death for youth ages 15-20: accidental injury, suicide and homicide.
- The U.S. Surgeon General reports death rates for 15-24 year-olds are higher today than 20 years ago.
- An adolescent's central nervous system and brain are not fully developed until age 21 and they can become addicted to alcohol in as little as 6 to 18 months.
- Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- More than 67% of young people who start drinking before the age of 15 will try an illicit drug.
- Teens under 15 who have ever consumed alcohol are twice as likely to have sex as those who have not.

