

Social Host Ordinance



IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"In Partnership with the Community"



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Centers for Disease Control determined that the consumption of alcohol by underage persons is a public health problem and that alcohol use is the most commonly accessed and abused drug among youth in the United States. No community is immune to the dangers of underage drinking. To address the issue, the Irvine City Council adopted a "Social Host Ordinance" in November 2011 (Irvine Municipal Code 4-11-503.1).

WHO IS A SOCIAL HOST?

The term "Social Host" refers to a responsible person under or over 21 years of age who permits the consumption of alcohol by an underage person at a party, social gathering or event held on private property. It's presumed that this "host" has knowledge that such activity is occurring if he/she does not take all reasonable steps to prevent it from happening, including:

- Controlling the access to and serving of alcoholic beverages to underage persons.
- Monitoring the responsible, safe and lawful conduct of those under the age of 21.

SOCIAL HOST CONSEQUENCES

Those found in violation of the Social Host Ordinance will receive a \$750 fine. If another incident occurs within a 12-month period, this fine increases to \$1,500; on the third violation within a 12-month period, the fine will rise to \$3,000 (Irvine Municipal Code 4-11-503.3).

Safe Party Tips

- Don't send email invitations or announce the party on social networking sites. These types of invitations can spread quickly to uninvited guests.
- Limit the party to a certain area of the home/property.
- Call parents of any teen who arrives in possession of alcohol or under the influence. Call the police if necessary. You can be held civilly liable if you know a minor has been drinking.
- Don't allow underage youth to have unsupervised parties or gatherings.

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