

Social Host Law

Purpose of Social Host Law

The primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to deter underage drinking and drug use at parties or gatherings where adults knowingly allow minors to consume alcohol or drugs. The law applies to any adult who is **18 years of age or older** and knowingly permits individuals **under the age of 21** to consume alcohol or use drugs.

Why Is the Law Needed?

The law establishes a legal basis for holding adults accountable when they knowingly allow underage drinking or drug use to occur at a location under their control. This applies **even if the adult did not personally provide the alcohol or drugs**.

Who Can Be Charged?

A person may be charged under the Social Host Law if they:

- Are **18 years of age or older** and own, rent, or otherwise control a private residence or temporary dwelling. This includes homes, apartments, condominiums, cooperative units, trailer homes, recreational vehicles, mobile homes, hotel or motel rooms, campsites, short-term rental properties, or any other dwelling unit, including surrounding yards or open areas.
- **Knowingly allow** the consumption of alcohol or drugs by a person **under the age of 21** on the premises listed above.
- **Fail to take reasonable corrective action** after becoming aware that a minor is consuming alcohol or drugs on the premises.