



the stats:

Why Is Underage Drinking a Problem?

- * Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and 50% – 65% of youth suicides.¹
- * Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students.²
- * Additional consequences of underage drinking include property damage, sexual assault, and other crime and violence.
- * In 2010, underage drinking cost Minnesota citizens \$1.0 billion.³
- * Adolescence is the transition between childhood and adulthood. Exposing the adolescent brain to alcohol during this time period may interrupt key processes of brain development and have long term consequences.⁴
- * People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared to those who have their first drink at age 21.⁴

¹ National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse

² American Medical Association, Office of Alcohol/Drug Abuse, 2001

³ <http://www.udetc.org/UnderageDrinkingCosts.asp>

⁴ National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, April 2003



Contact the Wadena Police Department at
(218) 631-7701
to report parties or gatherings
where minors have access to alcohol.

Your call may prevent:

- * Motor vehicle crashes
- * Sexual assault
- * Unintentional injuries
- * Alcohol poisoning
- * Other crimes and violence

Review the Social Host Ordinance at
www.CHAMPforWC.org/socialhostordinance

This brochure was developed [in part] under a grant number 5H79SP014683 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ONDCP, SAMHSA or HHS.



**No matter where,
BE RESPONSIBLE.**

The **Wadena Social Host Ordinance** makes it a punishable crime to knowingly provide a place where underage drinking occurs.



A message brought to you by:





what?

* What is the Social Host Ordinance?

The **Social Host Ordinance** holds individuals (social hosts) criminally responsible for hosting or allowing an event or gathering on private or public property where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol, regardless of who supplied the alcohol.

This ordinance applies to situations in which:

- * The social host **knows** or **reasonably should know** that alcohol is being possessed or consumed by persons under 21 years of age at their residence or premises. **A social host does not need to be present for this ordinance to apply.**
- * The social host fails to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s) at any event that s/he is hosting on public or private property.



details:

* What is an “event or gathering”?

An **“event or gathering”** means a group of persons who have assembled on private property or in a public place for a social occasion or a social activity.

* What is the penalty for violating this ordinance?

A violation of this ordinance is a **misdemeanor**, subject to a maximum penalty of **90 days in jail** and/ or a **\$1,000 fine**.

* Are there any exceptions?

The ordinance does not apply to...

- * Conduct solely between an underage person and his/ her parents in the parent’s household.
- * Legally protected religious observances.
- * Facilities otherwise licensed (bars, liquor stores, etc.).
- * Situations where underage persons are lawfully in possession of alcohol during the course of employment.
- * Law enforcement activities supervised by a law enforcement agency.



the facts:

* Isn’t underage drinking already illegal?

- * **Yes.** Under Minnesota law it is illegal for minors under age 21 to purchase, possess, or consume alcohol. It is also illegal for adults to furnish alcohol to minors.

* Will I be held liable if I am away for the weekend and my kids have a party at my home?

- * **No.** If you did not know about the party, event, or gathering.
- * **Yes.** If you knew about the party or had reason to know that underage drinking was occurring and did nothing to prevent it.

* If my housemate hosts a party in our apartment while I am away, can I still be held criminally liable?

- * **Maybe.** It depends on what knowledge you have about the party and what actions if any you took to prevent it.

* Can I be held liable if my tenant has an underage drinking party on my property?

- * **Maybe.** It depends on whether or not you actually participated in hosting or allowing the party where alcohol was present.