

**UNDERAGE
DRINKING**

Not a minor problem

NASSAU COUNTY'S SOCIAL HOST LAW

What parents should know:

- You and anyone over the age of 18 are breaking the law if you give alcohol to your teen's friends who are under the age of 21, under any circumstance.
- You and anyone over the age of 18 are subject to prosecution by the Social Host Law if you knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages.

If you break the law:

- A violation of the Social Host Law is a **misdemeanor – a criminal conviction** and punishable by progressive fines and penalties:
 - 1st Offense is subject to a fine of \$250;
 - 2nd Offense is subject to a fine of \$500;
 - 3rd Offense and future offenses are subject to a fine of \$1000 and/or up to a year in jail.

Things you can do as a parent:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Be at home when your teen has a party.
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends.
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending.
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome.
- **ANONYMOUSLY report underage drinking to the Nassau County Police Department at**

516.573.6600

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**SEE IT. HEAR IT. TALK ABOUT IT.
PARENTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

5 W's of talking to your kids about underage drinking

Who: All parents, and any adult with an interest in the well-being of youth, need to talk about underage drinking to kids. Even if your child doesn't drink, research shows that your child can be negatively influenced by peer use of alcohol.

What: TALK to your children about the dangers of alcohol use. Know you are not alone - there are many resources that can assist you with having this conversation (www.manhassetcasa.org)

Where: TALK in your home, during meals, in the car, at the game. Always keep the lines of communication open.

When: The younger you begin the conversation, the less likely your child will choose to drink.

Why: Parents remain the single greatest influence over their children's behavior. Alcohol affects the mind and body in often unpredictable ways. Teens lack the judgment and coping skills to handle alcohol wisely. This can lead to problems at school, and your child being more likely to be involved in violent crime, sexual assault, traffic-related crashes, and robbery.

