

RHODE ISLAND SOCIAL HOST LAW FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



THE BOTTOM LINE

In Rhode Island, it is illegal to allow (or “permit”) anyone under 21 to consume alcohol on your property. You can be held responsible—even if you don’t provide the alcohol or didn’t know it was happening.

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL HOST LAW?

The law states it is illegal to “permit” an underage person to consume alcohol.

“PERMIT” MEANS:

- ✓ Giving permission, or
- ✓ Approving of the possession or consumption of alcohol by your words, actions, or by not taking reasonable steps to stop it.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARENTS?

You can be held responsible if underage drinking happens:



In your home



At a party you host



On your property



EVEN IF:

- You didn’t supply the alcohol
- You didn’t know it was happening
- You told them not to drink

WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED?



Buying or providing alcohol to anyone under 21



Allowing underage drinking in your home or on your property



Creating an environment where underage drinking is likely to occur



Ignoring or not stopping underage drinking

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?



- Minimum fine: \$350
- Maximum fine: \$1,000
- Possible jail time: up to 6 months



- Minimum fine: \$750
- Maximum fine: \$1,000
- Possible jail time: up to 1 year



You are responsible even if you don’t know youth are consuming alcohol.



WHY THIS MATTERS

Underage drinking can:

- Impact brain development
- Affect decision-making skills
- Increase risk of injury and unsafe situations



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

- Set clear expectations about alcohol
- Monitor gatherings in your home
- Communicate with other parents
- Don’t assume “they’ll be safe if it’s here”—it’s still illegal



**Southern Providence County
Regional Coalition**
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**RHODE RULES
FOR RHODE ISLAND**