



DID YOU KNOW?

Suffolk County has a "Social Host Law"

SUFFOLK COUNTY
STOP DWI

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL HOST LAW?

The primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to deter underage drinking parties or gatherings where adults knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages. The law applies to any adult (including parents) who is over the age of 18 and who knowingly allows consumption of alcohol by minors (any person under the age of 21) at the adult's residence.

WHO CAN BE CHARGED?

- Anyone who is over the age of 18; and
- Owns, rents, or otherwise controls a private residence; and
- Knowingly allows the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises; or
- Fails to take reasonable corrective action upon learning of the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises.

WHAT IS "REASONABLE CORRECTIVE ACTION"

Reasonable Corrective actions shall include, but not be limited to:

- Making a prompt demand that the minor stop drinking the alcoholic beverage or leave the premises; and
- If the minor refuses to comply with the request, the adult must promptly report the underage drinking to;
 - local law enforcement; or
 - to any other person with greater degree of authority over the minor (e.g., the minors parents or guardians, etc.)

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?

1st Offense: \$250.00
2nd Offense: \$250.00-\$500.00
3rd Offense: \$1,000 and/or up to a year in jail

WHY IS THIS LAW NEEDED?

This law provides a legal basis for holding adults responsible for knowingly allowing parties for youth under 21 to occur on their property whether or not they provided the alcohol.

Note: This law does not apply to a parent who both expressly permits his or her minor child to consume the alcoholic beverage and who is present with the minor at the time of consumption.