

Nebraska Laws

QUESTIONS ASKED BY TEENAGERS

Is drinking alcohol in a public place, regardless of who purchased it, against the law?

Yes, consumption is the offense, not how possession was obtained or the manner it was acquired.

Is it legal for a minor to buy any alcohol if they have their parent's permission?

No, it is never legal for a minor to buy any alcohol.

Is it possible for a person under 18 to go to prison for injuring someone else while driving under the influence of alcohol?

Yes, if it is determined by the adult court that they should be treated as an adult for motor vehicle offenses.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS

If my child injures someone while driving under the influence of alcohol, can I be held liable?

Yes, the head of the household is personally liable to an injured person when a minor child is involved in a crash with the family car.

Am I responsible for minors using alcohol in my home?

Yes, you may be brought to court on criminal charges and for monetar damages in case of a civil suit when alcohol or other drugs are used by minors on your own private property.

Can the court system help me if I cannot control my child who is using drugs?

Yes, a minor beyond the control of his parents may be declared a status offender and placed under the supervision of the Juvenile Court.

Penalties for Minors In Possession in Nebraska

It is **ILLEGAL** to drink before 21 years old.

Any person older than 18 years, but under 21 years violating section 53-180.02 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

Any person 18 years of age or younger is guilty of misdemeanor and shall be punished as follows:

First offense:

- ♦ Loss of driver's license or permit - Prohibit from obtaining driver's license or permit for 30 days
- ♦ Alcohol Education Class

Second offense:

- ♦ Loss of driver's license or permit - Prohibit from obtaining driver's license or permit for 90 days
- ♦ 20 – 40 hours of Community Service
- ♦ Alcohol Education Class

Third offense:

- ♦ Loss of driver's license or permit - Prohibit from obtaining driver's license or permit for 12 months
- ♦ Minimum of 60 hours of Community Service
- ♦ Alcohol assessment by a licensed drug and alcohol counselor
- ♦ Alcohol Education Class

Web Resources

Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs

www.lcad.org

MADD--Mothers Against Drunk Driving

www.madd.org

Pride Omaha

www.pride.org

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

www.al-anon.org

This program is partially funded by Region V Systems, the United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County, JBC and private donations.

For more copies or information about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs please contact:

Lincoln Council on Alcoholism & Drugs, Inc.

914 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

(402) 475-2694

Fax: (402) 475-2699

www.lcad.org

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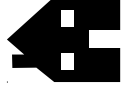
Underage Drinking

**You think you know.....
but you have no idea!**



Underage Drinking

“You think you know... But you have no idea!”



“They are all going to drink no matter what we do.”

If you feel this way, here are some things you should know.

FACT: While it's true that by high school graduation most teens (80%) have tried alcohol, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS 1999) also revealed that only 32% of teens surveyed had drunk heavily in the last 30 days. That means nearly 70% didn't.

FACT: Research shows that the number one reason kids give for not drinking is the belief that they would disappoint or upset their parents. When parents talk to their teens about drinking, those teens are less likely to use alcohol. Believe it or not, your kids care what you think.

“I take their car keys. What else do you want me to do?”

If you have said this, then here is something you should know.

FACT: Underage drinkers are more likely to become perpetrators or victims of rape, assault, robbery, murder, or other violent crimes. In fact, the juvenile justice system reports that alcohol is a factor in over 50% of their cases. While it is certainly important to prevent drinking and driving, there are many other risks that need to be considered too.

FACT: Alcohol is a depressant drug. Its impact on developing organs, the brain, and decision-making make it a particularly dangerous substance for adolescents. Consuming alcohol rapidly in large quantities can be fatal. Preventing motor vehicle crashes is not the only reason that young people should not drink.

“It's better to let them drink in my home, so I can supervise them.”

If you believe this statement, then you need to know the following.

FACT: Most parents who allow their underage children to drink do so with the intention that they will lessen the chances of something bad happening as a result of the drinking. However, the facts tell us otherwise. Kids whose parents allow them to drink are more than twice as likely to be a casualty of drinking and driving, use an illicit drug, have conflicts with friends, trouble in school, or other problems directly related to their drinking than kids who aren't allowed.

FACT: Individuals who begin to drink alcohol before the age of fifteen are four times more likely to develop alcohol problems in adulthood than those who wait until the legal age of 21. The older a person is before he tries alcohol, the less likely he will develop an alcohol problem.

My parents drank in high school, why shouldn't I?

Everyone makes mistakes and your parents are no exception. The truth is that teens with parents who are substance abusers are more likely to become abusers themselves. Approximately 1 in 4 children of alcoholics will develop alcoholism themselves. In addition, the legal drinking age is 21. Just because your parents did it, does not give you permission to break the law too. Think about the consequences....it's your future!

I drink now to party. When I get to college and get serious about my education, I'll stop.

Most colleges admit that binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting) is a big problem on their campus. In a recent survey done at 119 colleges it was reported that students who were binge drinkers in high school were three times more likely to binge drink in college. Students who binge drink are also 21 more times likely to have problems such as: missed classes and falling behind in coursework; engage in unplanned and unprotected sex; damage to property and themselves. You think you know....now you do.