**Iowa Social Host Q&A**

**Who is a Social Host?**

* A Social Host is someone who knowingly allows an underage person to illegally consume alcohol on the host’s property

**What is Social Host Liability?**

* Social Host Liability a term for the legal responsibility of a person who allows illegal activity under Iowa Code 123.47, enacted July 1, 2014 (<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/code/123.47.pdf>).

**What is the purpose of the Law?**

* The Social Host Law is part of the effort to stop underage drinking.
* It is aimed at those who allow persons under the age of 18 to consume alcoholic beverages in or on property they own or control.
* This would address enforcement and prosecution problems where persons knowingly and illegally permit or allow underage drinkers to consume alcohol on their property.
* The law will authorize the prosecution of adults who know that underage drinking is occurring on their property and either allow it to go on, or do nothing to stop it.
* The law only applies to those who know the underage drinking is going on and they do nothing to stop it or who gave permission in the first place. It WOULD NOT apply to persons who did not know the underage drinking was occurring on their property. It WOULD NOT apply to giving or dispensing alcohol to a person under legal age within a private home with the knowledge, presence, and consent of the parent or guardian. It WOULD NOT apply to religious observance or sacrament.

**Why is this important?**

* We want our youth to grow up to be strong, healthy and drug-free. Alcohol affects brain development.
* Even if the property owner didn’t supply the alcohol, it is still illegal for underage youth to consume alcohol. Adults, who knowingly permit youth to consume alcohol at their home, are sending the wrong message to our youth.
* The law is designed to help keep youth from having access to alcohol at large parties which encourage binge drinking and drunk driving.

**What are the penalties for the State of Iowa Social Host Law?**

* Iowa’s Social Host violation is a criminal offense, meaning the host can be punished with a monetary $200 fine for the first offense. \*
* Iowa’s social host law applies to any host who is providing a location for the consumption of alcohol by individuals 18 and under.\*

\*These are specific to the State Law 123.47 section 1, local ordinances for fines and penalties may differ. For more information on this please contact your local law enforcement or county attorney.

**Were there any other changes to the state law at the time of the “Social Host” bill becoming law?**

* Yes! Underage possession or “consumption” of alcohol was addressed specifically. In addition to prohibiting purchase, attempts to purchase, and possession, the law now also prohibits consumption for those under the legal age of 21.