

Blackcat P.R.I.D.E., Inc.

(Partners Responsible 4 Increasing Drug Education)

4 = Family, School, Business, Community

Dear Parents,

You play a primary role in the prevention of underage drinking. You play an even larger role in the prevention of underage drinking **parties**. Blackcat P.R.I.D.E. wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about the specific laws revolving around underage drinking. You may be surprised by what you **don't** know.

HOSTING: Any property owner or legal occupant who allows a person under the age of 21 to drink or possess alcohol, or fails to stop a person under 21 from drinking or possessing alcohol on the property, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. A second violation is a class A misdemeanor. In addition to criminal charges, you can be sued if you provide alcohol to a minor and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves, or damage property.

What does this mean? It means that if you allow a party on your property and if you allow kids to drink and they are under 21, you will be held responsible and accountable for what happens. It also means that your older son or daughter (over 21) may be charged if they host a party and underage drinkers are at the party. Taking the keys away and allowing the kids to sleep over doesn't make this situation okay.

MINOR IN POSSESSION: Any person under the age of 21 who buys or attempts to buy, or has in his or her possession any alcohol, or is visibly intoxicated, or has a detectable blood alcohol content of more than two-hundredths of one percent or more, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

What does this mean? It means that your son or daughter, if under the age of 21, could be charged with a MIP if he or she is at a party where alcohol is being served.

FURNISHING: Any licensed retailer who sells, or supplies alcohol to anyone under 21, or to any intoxicated person, or to a habitual drunkard, and any person except his or her parent or guardian who buys for, sells to, or gives alcohol to anyone under 21 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

What does this mean? This means if you allow a party at your home and you furnish alcohol to kids under 21 years of age, you could be criminally charged.

If you know of any underage drinking parties that are happening in your neighborhood, we'd like you to call the Anonymous Blackcat P.R.I.D.E. Tip Line at **636-479-2090**. This line is strictly confidential. It is reviewed a few times a day and the calls are triaged to the appropriate personnel. The reviewer is a third-party individual with no ties to the schools or to Blackcat P.R.I.D.E.

If your teen is attending a party, do the following:

- Don't be afraid to ask your son or daughter for the name, phone number and location of the party. You are not being "nosy". You are being responsible.
- Contact the parents at the location. Ask what time the party will be over. Be sure that alcohol won't be served.
- Make sure that you tell your son or daughter that you will be available to get them if alcohol is used at the party.
- Make sure your son or daughter knows different ways to decline the use of alcohol so they don't feel pressured to drink.

Remember

- It's okay to ask questions about the party.
- It's okay to check to make sure your kids are where they said they would be.
- It's okay to be a responsible parent .

Sincerely,

Blackcat P.R.I.D.E.

Patty Rodriguez, President

Phone: (314) 681-5394

Email: blackcat@pridenow.org

"Doing the right thing, is never wrong."