



CANCEL THE KEG HOTLINE 631-852-KEGS

Suffolk County's Social Host Law

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, whether or not they provide the alcohol.

Who can be charged?

- Anyone who is over the age of 18; and
- Owns, rents, or otherwise controls a private residence; or a permanent or temporary domicile, including a home, apartment, condominium, cooperative unit, trailer home, recreational vehicle, mobile home, overnight accommodations at a hotel, motel, campsite or short-term rental property; or other dwelling unit of any kind, including yards and open areas adjacent to these locations;
- 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 are not limited to:

- Making a prompt demand that the minor(s) 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
 - Any other person with greater degree of authority over the minor (e.g. the minors' parents or guardians, etc.)



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What are the penalties?

In 2016, the Suffolk County Legislature passed an amended version of the Social Host Law which stiffened penalties for violators:

- First offense: Any person who violates the law shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.
- Second and subsequent offenses: Any person who violates the law shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year, or both.

If you see something, say something! Help us keep our young community members safe. If you find out about a party where underage drinking will be occurring, call our CANCEL THE KEG hotline at 631-852-KEGS. An officer will visit the location where the party is to take place and warn any adults present that the SCPD is aware of the party and will be holding violators accountable.