

# **Don't be a party to underage drinking.**

## **Avoid Problems With the Law...**

The County of San Diego and each of the cities in the Sheriff's service area have enacted laws to protect youth from the many problems associated with drinking alcohol.

### **Anyone hosting a party is required to:**

- 1) Verify the age of guests
- 2) Control access to those under 21
- 3) Supervise minors

Anyone allowing minors (under 21) to drink alcohol will be held accountable and may be:

- Cited / arrested
- Fined up to \$1,000 or more
- Serve up to 6 months in jail
- Billed for enforcement services

**YOU can be part of the solution!**  
Report underage drinking parties to:

**Sheriff's Department (858) 565-5200**  
**or**  
**Crime Stoppers (888) 580-8477**



San Diego County  
Sheriff's Department  
William D. Gore, Sheriff

## **Why is underage drinking a problem?**

- Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen car crashes, the leading cause of death among teenagers. (American Medical Association)
- Hosting at home doesn't change the facts or lessen the dangers
  - alcohol poisonings
  - brain damage
  - chronic alcohol addiction
  - car crashes
  - property damage
  - community disturbance
  - risky sexual behavior and sexual assault
  - fighting
  - accidental injuries due to falls or poor judgement

## **Isn't underage drinking already illegal?**

Yes, state law prohibits minors under age 21 from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol. All too often, home is a teen's source for alcohol. A study from the American Medical Association shows:

- 2 out of 3 teens said it was easy to get alcohol
- 1 in 3 said it was easy to get alcohol from their own consenting parents
- 2 out of 5 said it was easy to get alcohol from a friend's parents
- 1 in 4 said they'd attended a party where under 21s were drinking in front of parents

Social Host Ordinance assigns responsibility to those who knew or should have known a drinking party was occurring on their property.

## **What is a "Social Host?"**

A "Social Host" is anyone who knowingly hosts underage drinking parties on property that they own, lease or otherwise control.