

Parents Can Help Prevent Underage Alcohol Use

Be aware of factors that may increase the risk of teen alcohol use.

- Significant social transitions such as graduating middle or high school;
- Depression & other serious emotional problems;
- A family history of alcoholism;
- Contact with peers who use alcohol;

Support your children and teens and give them space to grow.

- Encourage your teens' growing independence but set appropriate limits;
- Know where your teens are, what they're doing, who they're with & who their friends are;
- Set clear rules, including rules about alcohol use. Enforce the rules you set;
- Don't let your teens attend parties where alcohol is served;
- Help your teens find ways to have fun without alcohol.

Finally, do not give alcohol to your teens or their friends. Let them know any alcohol in your home is off limits.

Brochure created by:



Our mission is to prevent and reduce youth substance use and abuse in the Pequannock Twp. community through collaboration, education and community-wide change.



For more information or to join the Pequannock Twp. Coalition, please call Anne Light at 973-625-1998 or email at alight@mcpik.org

PTC is an initiative of:



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Pequannock Twp Takes Underage Drinking Seriously

Section 043.02 Alcoholic Beverages; Underage Persons.



Underage Persons Private Property Law & Frequently Asked Questions

Section 043.02 Alcoholic Beverages; Underage Persons.

Subsection 043.02.01 Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages by Underage Person on Private Property Prohibited.

It is hereby unlawful for any person under the legal age to, without legal authority, knowingly possess or knowingly consume an alcoholic beverage on private property.

Subsection 043.02.02 Violation and Penalties.

Any person found guilty of violating the terms of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$250.00 for the first offense and a fine of \$350.00 for any subsequent offense. In addition, the court may, upon a finding of guilty, in addition to the fine authorized for this offense, suspend or postpone for six months the driving privileges of the defendant.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will this ordinance violate private property rights?

A: No. Police must have probable cause before they enter private property. The ordinance does not change or violate any existing private property rights.



Q: Aren't there already laws?

A: Serving alcohol to a minor without the permission or presence of a parent is already a disorderly person's offense in the state of New Jersey. This ordinance makes it a violation for youth to possess or consume alcohol on private property if their parent has not given permission and is not present.

Q: Will this ordinance tell me how to parent my own child?

A: The ordinance will not change a parent's authority over their own children. This law is only concerned with youth obtaining alcohol without their parent's permission or outside the presence of their parents.

Q: Minors drinking on private property keeps them safe rather than drinking and driving, doesn't it?

A: It is a common myth that this practice will keep youth safe. Drinking on private property doesn't keep youth safe from injury, high-risk sex, alcohol poisoning, violence, suicide and more. Over 2,000 young adults die each year from alcohol-related injuries. Serving alcohol to minors is against state law, and punishable by up to 6 months in jail and/or fines up to \$1,000.