Social Host Accountability Ordinances

What is a Social Host Accountability Ordinance?

A Social Host Ordinance is a statute that holds non-commercial individuals responsible for underage drinking events that occur on property they own, lease, or otherwise control. Laws prohibiting furnishing alcoholic beverages to underage persons target only those individuals who buy or otherwise provide alcohol to underage persons. Social host laws target those individuals who provide the venue where underage drinking takes place.

Social host liability statutes can be set up in one of the following 3 ways:

- **State Social Host Criminal Statutes:** These involve a state statutory violation, enforced by the state through criminal prosecution and leading to criminal sanctions such as fines or imprisonment. As of 2007, 34 states have enacted this type of law.
- **State Social Host Civil Liability Laws:** These hold social hosts potentially responsible for the injuries to third parties caused by guests whom the hosts had served or had allowed to consume alcoholic beverages. These laws involve private litigation and only come in to play if the injured party decides to sue the social host.
- **Response Costs Recovery Municipal Ordinances:** These occur at the level of local government in the form of municipal (city or county) ordinances called “response costs recovery” ordinances. In general, these laws hold social hosts (including tenants) and landowners (including landlords) civilly responsible for the costs of law enforcement, fire, or other emergency response services associated with multiple responses to the scene of an underage drinking party.

Why Does Our Community Need One?

On February 18, 2008, 200 surveys were completed by adults and youth at the Movies 8 theater in Yuba City. Here are some of the findings:

- 25% of adults surveyed believe that it is OK to give alcohol to minors
- 18% of adults surveyed have already provided alcohol to minors
- 40% of youth surveyed have had alcohol provided to them by an adult
- 10% of adults believe alcohol is easy for minors to obtain
- 76% of youth believe that alcohol is easy to obtain
- 95% of adults and 93% of youth surveyed believe that it is important to have laws that protect minors from the consumption of alcohol
The Problem with Teen Drinking

In addition to the obvious dangers of drunk driving and alcohol poisoning, studies have found other "hidden" problems associated with underage drinking:

- Teenage girls who are heavy drinkers are five times more likely than nondrinkers to engage in sexual intercourse and a third less likely to use condoms, which can result in pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Those who start drinking before the age of 14 are 12 times more likely to be injured while under the influence of alcohol sometime in their life.
- Of the people who began drinking before age 14, 47% became dependent at some point, compared with 9% who began drinking at age 21 or later.
- Moderate consumption of alcohol affects the function of a variety of brain systems associated with emotion, learning, motivation, and coordination.

More statistics available at www.alcoholfreechildren.org

Peer pressure can be a powerful motivator for teens

What Can Communities Do?

Communities can help limit youth access to alcohol through a variety of prevention strategies. These include:

- Increasing social pressure against providing alcohol to youth
- Increasing media coverage of underage drinking problems
- Promoting counter-advertising and media literacy
- Developing alcohol-free places and activities for youth
- Teaching alcohol outlets about liability laws
- Enforcing the minimum age of purchase laws for alcohol
- Suspending driving privileges for youth who are found with alcohol
- Monitoring alcohol outlets to ensure that alcohol is not being sold to youth
- Participating in and supporting local efforts to prevent teen alcohol use

For more information contact Dulia Aguilar at 674-1885 x. 109

What can Parents Do?

There are six proven strategies for parents to help children and adolescents avoid alcohol and drugs:

- Establish and maintain good communication with your child.
- Get involved and stay involved in your child’s life.
- Make clear rules and enforce them with consistency and appropriate consequences.
- Be a positive role model. Do not use illicit drugs or abuse alcohol. If you smoke, make plans to stop.
- Teach your child to choose friends wisely.
- Monitor your child’s activities—know what your children are doing, where they are, and with whom.

Having meals together is a great way to check in with your children
This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

“To catch the reader’s attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.
This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

### Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it’s a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you’ve received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you’ve created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.