

Volume 1 Issue 1

September 2008



www.cudtf.org/safehomes

404-223-9812

Why We Need Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes

Alcohol is the top threat to youth and safety. It contributes to; the top 3 causes of death for youth under age 21 each year, it's responsible for as many as two thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes, it contributes to injuries from fights, crashes, falls and burns. Underage drinking also has second hand effects threatening the health and safety of all in the community, such as poor academic performance and productivity, drunk driving crashes, and crimes such as interpersonal violence and vandalism, etc.

Cobb County is home to approximately 72,000 youth between the ages of 12-20 and an estimated 21,042 (or 29 percent of them) have used alcohol in the past 30 days. **National data reports 1 in 12 parents of teens allow friends of their own teen to drink in their home under their supervision.**

Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes offers an opportunity for neighborhoods and residents to put a stop to “social hosting”, defined as adults providing alcohol to underage teens.

This new campaign is designed to make alcohol harder for teens to get by mobilizing adults on the front lines who are in the best position to help—adults in homes and

in neighborhoods. We need broad base community support for holding adults who provide kids with easy access to alcohol accountable. Enforcing underage drinking laws needs to become a shared responsibility. Everyone can do their part!

My name is Pat Giuliani and I am the NEW coordinator of *Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes*. I have been a member of the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force for four years and was involved in the planning and development of *Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes*.



Please contact me via email at safehomes@cudtf.org

22 Neighborhood Partners To Date

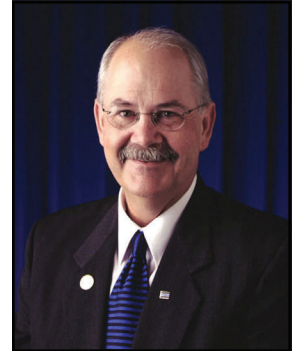
The following neighborhoods are current partners and we welcome others with a goal of 100 neighborhoods by March 2009...

Aiken Mill, Dunleith, Ashebrooke, Abbotts Glenn, Woodcreek, Arbor Walk, Chadds Lake, Hampton Farms, Rivermill, River Park, Fields Ponds, Providence Cove, Camden Place, East Hampton, Brookwood Commons and seven apartment complexes affiliated with Marietta Crime Free Housing.

Take This Quiz....Test Your Knowledge of the Law

In Georgia there are State Laws, Regulations and Local Ordinances that support the current minimum age drinking law of 21. A telephone survey of Cobb County residents, conducted for the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force by the A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service at Kennesaw State University, found significant public support for current laws. The same survey found Cobb youth under 21 have easy access to alcohol and that often adults are providing alcohol to underage youth at parties.

This T/F Quiz was designed to clarify some of the laws and legal consequences for youth and adults and we thank Cobb County Solicitor General, Barry Morgan, for his help in reviewing the questions and answers for accuracy .



Questions:

1. *Parents or adults are within their legal rights to provide alcohol to minors (those under age 21) as long as it is in their own home and when the minor's parents have given permission. **T or F***
2. *Adults who host an underage drinking party/gathering, can be held legally liable for actions and incidents (crashes, injuries, deaths) attributed to the underage drinking party/gathering. **T or F***
3. *If parents or adults are out of town or unaware of an underage drinking party/gathering that takes place at their home or on their property, they cannot be held legally liable for actions and incidents attributed to the underage drinking party/gathering. **T or F***
4. *Adults found guilty of "furnishing alcohol to minors" or "allowing underage drinking to occur on property they control" have the option of completing community service and counseling to fulfill court penalties and clear their arrest record. **T or F***
5. *Police cannot enter a home, or other private property, to investigate a party for underage drinking unless there is a commotion outside. **T or F***
6. *Beer kegs that are found to be the source of underage drinking can be easily traced to the adult purchaser who can be prosecuted for "furnishing alcohol to minors". **T or F***
7. *Youth found guilty of "minor in possession of alcohol" misdemeanor crime will have his or her arrest cleared after seven years. **T or F***
8. *For an alcohol related offense, a teen can lose his or her driver's license, even if the crime did not involve a vehicle. **T or F***

Check your answers with those on page 3!

Take This Quiz....Test Your Knowledge of the Law

Answers:

1. **FALSE.** According to Georgia law (O.C.G.A., Section 3-3-23 & 3-5-5) parents cannot provide alcohol to their children's friends who are under age 21, under any circumstances, even in their own home, even with the child's parents permission. Georgia law does allow for parents to provide alcohol to their own minor children under their direct supervision and in their own home. However, parents and adults can be prosecuted for "furnishing alcohol to minors" should they provide alcohol to their child's friends who are minors.
2. **TRUE.** Adults who provide alcohol to minors are criminally and civilly liable for actions that arise from the underage drinking, even if the drinking did not occur at their home. For example, adults who knowingly provide minors with access to alcohol are guilty of a "high and aggravated" misdemeanor. Under Georgia law, criminal action can include various fines, penalties, and/or imprisonment; up to five thousand dollars and/or twelve months in jail. Adults can also be sued in civil court for damages and injuries caused by the illegal provision of alcohol to minors. Civil action can include substantial financial liability if injuries and/or death result from an underage drinking accident. It is not uncommon for salaries and personal property to be garnished as a result of civil court action. There have been significant increases of such civil cases in Georgia courts over the past decade.
3. **FALSE.** Although parents and adults cannot be held criminally liable for an underage drinking party or gathering they knew nothing about, charges can be brought against them if investigators determine that their children were left negligently unsupervised. Should a sibling over age 21 be found present at the underage drinking party, the adult sibling can be charged, prosecuted and held liable by criminal and civil courts.
4. **FALSE.** Arrest records are never cleared and can affect employment. Adults cannot "choose" their punishment upon court conviction. Georgia statutes define these offenses as misdemeanors which carry a maximum fine of one thousand dollars and/or twelve months in jail for a first offense. A judge will impose a sentence that he/she believes is warranted. Adults who host underage drinking parties put themselves at risk for tremendous liability and severe consequences from criminal and/or civil court action.
5. **FALSE.** Using probable cause, police may enter a house or other private property to investigate a complaint made to them.
6. **TRUE.** In Georgia, beer kegs must be registered and marked for tracking purposes, at the point of sale. Retailers must document and maintain records of the keg purchasers' name, address, age verification and location where keg will be consumed. This "keg registration" law provides law enforcement a new tool to help identify and prosecute those adults for "furnishing alcohol to minors".
7. **FALSE.** Arrests stay with you for life and must be reported when applying for jobs, and applying to colleges. In Georgia, a minor's record of conviction may be cleared if, and only if, the minor completes a court ordered program to the courts' satisfaction. Some court ordered programs include, but are not limited to: evaluations for drug/alcohol dependence, medical treatment if recommended, DUI school, drivers license suspension, and community service hours.
8. **TRUE.** In Georgia, teens found guilty of "minor in possession" and/or "attempting to purchase alcohol illegally" can lose their drivers license for up to six months for a first conviction. For subsequent convictions, minors can lose their drivers license for one year, even if the conviction did not involve a vehicle.



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Adults are Accessories To Underage Drinking

A report released by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), revealed that more than forty percent of the nation's estimated ten million underage drinkers obtained their alcohol from adults of legal drinking age—including their own parents. The report indicated that one in sixteen underage drinkers was given an alcoholic beverage by their parents in the past month.

The survey asked persons aged 12 to 20 about the nature and scope of their drinking behavior as well as the social conditions under which they drank.

Five thousand underage drinkers die each year due to behavioral or social situations relating to drinking. The Acting Surgeon General, Steven K. Galson, M.D., says “in far too many instances parents directly enable their children's underage drinking, in essence encouraging them to risk their health and wellbeing. Proper parental guidance and strong monitoring may not be the complete solution to this devastating public health problem, but they are a critical part.”

For more about this report and some pretty interesting and notable findings...check out the link below.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0806250013.aspx>

If you are reading this e-newsletter...YOU CAN help spread the news and help grow the Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes Campaign!

With your help we hope to reach out to parents, youth and all adults in Cobb County to help engage everyone in the shared responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws. We invite parents to be stressing the damage that alcohol has on the adolescent brain, and helping to educate themselves and their teens on the short and long-term implications underage drinking has on today's youth. Adult citizens can help by educating their neighbors and partnering with law enforcement to stop the “social hosting” of underage drinking parties that are all too frequent throughout Cobb County!