



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

Fact Sheet

WHAT IS A SOCIAL HOST ACCOUNTABILITY ORDINANCE?

A **Social Host Accountability Ordinance** holds accountable the **host** of a gathering where underage drinking is allowed to occur or gatherings that are loud or unruly. ANYONE 18 years of age or older who hosts such a gathering will be subject to the ordinance and a fine. If the host of such a gathering is 17 years old or younger, the parents of that minor will be held jointly responsible with their teen and subject to a fine, even if they were not present or aware of the gathering.

WHY ARE SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCES NECESSARY?

Thirty percent of Napa County teens surveyed report obtaining alcohol at parties or events outside school—the **#1 source of alcohol for teens**.

A social host ordinance solidifies and enforces the message that allowing underage drinking will not be tolerated in Napa County. The ordinance also deters hosts from creating dangerous and illegal situations involving minors, and reduces the nuisance that loud gatherings inflict on the community.

In addition, a Social Host Ordinance:

- ▶ Empowers parents, frustrated neighbors and concerned residents to seek help from law enforcement when there are youth suspected of underage drinking, unruly or loud parties, or other potentially dangerous or illegal situations involving minors;
- ▶ Provides law enforcement with a formal course of action to combat underage drinking and loud/unruly gatherings; and
- ▶ Recoups some of the expense of providing police and/or other public services in response to loud and unruly gatherings.

Fines for Gatherings Where Underage Drinking is Allowed to Occur

First Violation: \$500

Second Violation: \$750

Third or Subsequent Violation: \$1,000

In addition, Civil Cost Recovery Fees may be imposed.

Civil Cost Recovery Fees for Loud and Unruly Gatherings

Fees may be imposed on the host of a loud and unruly gathering whether or not underage drinking is allowed to occur. Fees may include the cost of providing public safety services such as Sheriff, fire, ambulance and other emergency services.