

# Cheltenham Communities That Care

## ALCOHOL SAFETY IS MORE THAN A MINOR RESPONSIBILITY

By Wendy Rosenfeld, CTC Community Mobilizer

### Think Before You Serve — It's the Law!

If you think it's acceptable to serve alcohol to a minor, for any reason, think again. Fines and even jail time can be issued to anyone, family members included, who:

- sells, provides, or gives alcohol to a minor.
- encourages or enables underage drinking to occur (such as supplying or permitting alcohol for minors at parties, social events, or at holiday and religious celebrations, even in your own home).
- assists a minor in age deception in order to trick a vendor into selling alcohol to the minor.

### Youth Violations and Penalties

Alcohol violators under age 21 will not be able to avoid penalties simply because their age classifies them as minors.

In fact, minors can receive hefty fines, incur possible jail sentences, and have their driver's license suspended, if they:

- lie about their age, such as possessing or using a fake ID or false identification in an effort to obtain or drink alcohol.



- either attempt to or succeed in buying alcohol or are caught drinking, possessing, or consciously and purposely transporting alcohol (which includes having bottles/cans of alcohol or cocktails-to-go in their cars for any distance or are driving a passenger who is consuming alcohol).
- drive after consuming alcohol with a Blood Alcohol Content of .02% or more.

For information on specific laws and penalties, please visit the [Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board website at lcb.pa.gov](http://www.pennsylvania.gov/lcb).

**Please note:** As a parent/caregiver, you have a huge impact on the decisions your child makes. Begin talking to your child about the dangers of alcohol as early as age 9. Talk to them openly and honestly, as well as at an age appropriate level.

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*This newsletter is produced by Cheltenham Communities That Care (CTC).  
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Connect with us on Facebook and visit [www.CheltenhamCommunitiesThatCare.org](http://www.CheltenhamCommunitiesThatCare.org).*

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## Set a Good Example

Parents, when you host parties, serve food and beverages other than just alcohol, and keep all alcohol away from minors. Also, don't let family and friends drive home intoxicated. Let your kids know that you are careful and concerned hosts who have established house rules for all guests.

Don't get drunk in front of your kids or let them hear you joke about the times you and/or your spouse and friends got drunk or even drank at parties.

When you go out to dinner and have an alcoholic beverage, limit your consumption, especially if your children are with you, and make sure you have a designated driver.

If your child asks to taste your alcoholic beverage, don't give in dismissing it as only being one sip. Say "no" clearly and without debate. Explain that alcohol is harmful for their developing brains and illegal for them to consume, in any amount.

**For tips on how to talk to your children about alcohol, download the Talk They Hear You app (see resources) and visit [knowwhentohow.org](http://knowwhentohow.org).**



Prepare for one of the most important conversations you may ever have with your kids about alcohol and drugs with the "Talk. They Hear You." resource toolkit and mobile app.



Parents —  
who Host  
Lose the Most



**Don't be a party to teenage drinking!**

**It's illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under 21.**



## —RESOURCES—

[www.lcb.pa.org](http://www.lcb.pa.org)

**Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board**

[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)**

[www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you](http://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you)

**Talk They Hear You  
Download the app for talking to your children about alcohol**

**Alcoholics Anonymous of Southeastern PA  
215-923-7900**

[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

**Provides help and hope for friends and families of alcoholics**

[www.knowwhentohow.org](http://www.knowwhentohow.org)

**Talk to your kids about alcohol**