

Alcohol

Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States

- Hosting Underage drinking in your home is illegal
- One in every twelve adults suffers from alcohol abuse or dependence while several million more engage in risky drinking patterns (e.g. binge drinking). (Source: NCADD)
- More than 7 million children live in a household where at least one parent is dependent on or has abused alcohol. (Source: NCADD)

[Find an Alcohol Abuse Therapist in Will County](#)

[Stop Teenage Alcohol Related Tragedies \(S.T.A.R.T.\)](#)

Alcohol - The Facts

- Alcohol is called a drug because its main ingredient, ethanol, in higher doses, acts as a general anesthetic (like ether).
- Alcohol is a depressant, and as such, it slows the brain and central nervous system. When large quantities are ingested, it is possible for the brain to shut down partially or completely, resulting in a coma, respiratory failure, or possibly death
- More than a third of America's 3.3 million alcoholics are under the legal drinking age.
- 30% of high school seniors get drunk once a week and 6% are daily drinkers.
- Adolescents can become alcoholics in 3-24 months versus 10-15 years for adults.
- In the adolescent, very low blood alcohol levels can produce irrational judgment and reduce self control.
- Incomplete muscle formation, bone growth, and juvenile fat deposits decrease the teen's resistance to alcohol toxicity.

ILLINOIS UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS

- It is illegal for anyone, including parents, to purchase or provide alcohol to a person under 21.
- It is illegal for anyone under age 21 to purchase, consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
- It is illegal for a person who is under age 21 to possess or transport alcoholic beverages in a car. A conviction for this, a petty offense, carries a possible fine of \$1,000, a one-year suspension of driving privileges, and up to 6 months probation.
- Passengers in vehicles where open alcohol is being carried are subject to the same penalties as the driver.
- It is illegal to use a fake ID to buy alcohol.

Adult Liability

- A person who knowingly gives, sells, or furnishes alcoholic beverages to a person who is under age 21 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to \$2,500 or imprisonment for up to 12 months.
- A person (parent or anyone else) who knowingly allows under-age drinking on his or her premises is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to \$2,500 or imprisonment for up to 12 months.
- Parental responsibility: Under Illinois law, a parent is deemed to have given permission if:
 - He or she knowingly authorized the use.
 - He or she enables the use of the residence by failing to control access to either the residence or alcohol maintained in the residence.
 - Permission is presumed to have been given, unless the contrary is established by a preponderance of the evidence. "Being out of town" is not necessarily accepted as an excuse.
- Civil liability for monetary damages attaches to a child's parent if a child under the age 21 is permitted to consume alcohol in a host residence, leaves the residence in an intoxicated state, and then injures another person in a motor vehicle accident.

USE IT & LOSE IT: ZERO TOLERANCE AND DUI LAWS

Under the Zero Tolerance law of Illinois, drivers under the age of 21 with any trace of alcohol in their systems will lose their driving privileges. They will also be charged with DUI if they have a BAC (blood alcohol count) of .08 or greater, any illegal drugs in their system, or other indications of impaired driving. An individual may still be convicted of DUI at alcohol levels between .05 and .08 if additional evidence determines that the driver was impaired. Penalties for drinking and driving under 21 fall under Zero Tolerance (BAC of .01 or greater) and include:

- 1st violation: 3 month loss of driving privileges
- 2nd violation: 1 year loss of driving privileges
- 1st test refusal: 6 month loss of driving privileges
- 2nd test refusal: 2 year loss of driving privileges

A Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Conviction (BAC of .08 or greater) includes:

- 1st violation: 2 year minimum loss of driving privileges
- 2nd violation: Until age 21 or 3 years minimum
- 1st test refusal: 2 year minimum loss of driving privileges
- 2nd test refusal: Until age 21 or 3 years minimum

In Addition:

- Penalties include both a driver's license revocation and the suspension of vehicle registration privileges.
- DUI convictions permanently stay on public driving records.
- DUI offenders face a possible \$1,000 fine.
- Penalties for those convicted of DUI in a crash in which a person is seriously injured or killed can result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and possible imprisonment for up to 14 years.