

SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE: KNOW THE FACTS. TALK TO YOUR CHILD, NEIGHBORS, AND FELLOW PARENTS.

A message from County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke and Marin County Health and Human Services

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the fall of 2014 Marin County HHS surveyed Marin parents asking them about alcohol and drug use among Marin teens.

We were very pleased to learn that a vast majority of parents noted their concern about youth substance use, and had discussed family rules or values about not using drugs and alcohol.

As we all know, in addition to being dangerous, underage drinking is against the law. However, our survey also showed that a lot of parents are not familiar with the Marin County Social Host Ordinance, so we'd like to take this opportunity to inform you about it and explain how it might benefit you and your children.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Between 2006 and 2009, every city, town and unincorporated area in Marin County adopted a Social Host Ordinance. This coordinated effort was the result of communities, schools and elected officials coming together to reduce youth access to alcohol in social settings. The ordinances are each enforced by the local police or sheriff department.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

The Social Host Ordinance holds adults responsible for hosting youth drinking parties in their households whether or not the adults are present. As our community partners in this effort, we want you to know that you have our support on this issue. We realize that parenting children through the teen years is challenging. You are not alone – and our research indicates that the vast majority of parents have the same goals for their kids – to keep them safe from alcohol and drugs.

To help explain how the SHO works, we've attached a palm card with facts about the law, as well as a list of coalition and law enforcement contacts throughout Marin. We encourage you to reach out to your local coalition to learn more about efforts to keep youth safe in your community.

We hope this information will help you start conversations with your children, neighbors, and other parents. Together we can keep our youth healthy and safe!

MARIN COUNTY COALITIONS

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING & SUBSTANCE USE

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Novato Blue Ribbon Coalition for Youth
Brittany Lobo, Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator
brittany@novatoblueribbon.org
(415) 798-7522

SAN RAFAEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Rafael Alcohol Compliance Team
Anna Lebedeff, Project Coordinator
alebedeff@marincounty.org

San Rafael Alcohol & Drug Coalition
Jorge Castillo, Advocacy Director
jorgec@alcoholjustice.org
(415) 254-2488

TAMALPAIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mill Valley Aware
Kevin Marlatt, Coordinator
kmarlatt@cityofmillvalley.org

Ross Valley Healthy Community Collaborative
Bridget Clark, Coordinator
rvhcc1@gmail.com

Twin Cities Coalition for Healthy Youth
Linda Henn, Program Coordinator
Thecoalitionconnection@gmail.com

BOLINAS-STINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT • LAGUNITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT • SHORELINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TAMALPAIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

West Marin Coalition for Healthy Kids
Suzanne Sadowsky, Associate Director
San Geronimo Valley Community Center
valleyresourcecenter@sgvcc.org
(415) 488-8888, ext. 251

Heather Richardson, Program Coordinator
San Geronimo Valley and Nicasio
loft@sgvcc.org
(415) 497-2072

Madeline Hope, Program Coordinator
West Marin Coastal Communities
hope.madeline@gmail.com
(415) 663-9087

COUNTYWIDE

**Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol
California Friday Night Live Partnership**
Deborah Schoenbaum, Senior Director
Youth Leadership Institute, Marin County
dschoenbaum@yli.org
(415) 472-1142

Marin County Youth Commission
Kiely Hosmon, Program Coordinator
Youth Leadership Institute, Marin County
khosmon@yli.org
(415) 472-1147

Kristen Law, Prevention Coordinator
County of Marin
klaw@marincounty.org
www.marinhhs.org/prevention-hub

SERVE ALCOHOL TO MINORS... AND WE'LL CRASH YOUR PARTY

The Social Host Ordinance (SHO) holds adults responsible for hosting youth drinking in their households whether or not adults are present.



FACTS ON THE SHO:

HOUSE PARTIES ARE WHERE YOUTH DRINK.

73% of young people in Marin reported they most often drink alcohol at home with friends, at parties, or at other social events.*

IT IS A PROVEN PREVENTION TOOL.

A good SHO policy can act as a deterrent to help stop underage drinking parties before they cause harm.

IT TAKES PRESSURE OFF YOUTH.

It's become a norm to drink at youth parties. With a SHO, youth don't have to make the decision of drinking to fit in or not going to parties.

IT HOLDS ADULTS ACCOUNTABLE.

Providing alcohol to a minor is illegal, and enforcing this law requires the help of parents and the greater community.

IT IS A TOOL FOR YOU.

It gives you talking points for a difficult conversation.

SERVE ALCOHOL TO MINORS... AND WE'LL CRASH YOUR PARTY

HOW DOES THE SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE WORK?

- A neighbor reports a loud party or 'unruly gathering' where they believe there is underage drinking.
- An 'unruly gathering' means a party or gathering of two (2) or more persons at a residence or other private property in the city.
- The police officer that responds to the scene will assess the situation to find out if underage drinking has occurred.
- The adults will be held responsible for any underage drinking and all youth will be required to get home safely. Youth under the influence may be cited or arrested.
- If adults are not present, they will be notified that an underage drinking party has occurred in their home and will be held accountable.

If underage youth are drinking on your property, you could be fined up to \$750 with a possible addition of recovery fees.

The Social Host Ordinance is being enforced in every city, town, and unincorporated area of Marin County.

To anonymously report underage drinking parties in your neighborhood, call your local police department's non-emergency phone number.