

Social Host Ordinance: Know the Facts. Talk to your child, neighbors, and fellow parents.

A message from the Principal of ##### and Marin County Health and Human Services

Dear Parent,

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. In San Rafael, SHO is enforced jointly by the SRPD and the Sheriff.

In San Rafael, the San Rafael Alcohol Compliance Team is active in the community and the schools educating students, parents, and business owners about the Social Host Ordinance in an effort to keep our youth safe.

What Does This Mean for Me?

San Rafael's SHO 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, and contacts for more information. We also hand these cards out to students at San Rafael school events and presentations about alcohol effects on the brain.

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!

Anna Lebedeff

Project Coordinator, San Rafael Alcohol Compliance Team