

Social Host Law

- ✓ The legal drinking age in Massachusetts and every other state is 21. Someone under 21 cannot legally drink alcohol.
- ✓ Under the principle of social host liability law, you can be held responsible if your guest harms or kills another person after having consumed alcohol at your home. The penalty is a fine up to \$2000, imprisonment for up to a year, or both.
- ✓ You could be civilly liable if you give permission for your underage child to drink in someone else's home and he injures or kills a third party. Parents often don't know that four out of five teens have the opportunity to drink alcohol; only three out of five parents believe children have access to alcohol.
- ✓ You could be civilly liable if your child has a few friends over when you are not at home, it develops into a drinking party, and a party-goer injures himself when fleeing after the police arrive.
- ✓ Your child may be charged criminally for allowing minors to drink alcohol at your home.
- ✓ Recent judgements in these cases have been over \$1,000,000.

Don't give kids alcohol. One bad decision about alcohol can change a life or many lives, forever. *It's not worth it.*

Please join the **Walpole Coalition for Alcohol Awareness** as we create a new norm in Walpole. We plan on keeping residents in Walpole informed about our activities, how each of us can help, and how we are making things better. For more information about this Coalition and how you can join, please call the Walpole Health Department at 508-660-7321.

