

Pasco County's Social Host Law Statute 856.015

What is the Social Host Law?

- The primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to deter underage drinking: parties or gatherings, where adults knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages. The law applies to any adult (including parents) who are over the age of 18 and knowingly allow consumption of alcohol by minors (any person under the age of 21).

Why is the Law Needed?

- The law provides a basic legal basis for holding adults responsible for knowingly allowing parties for individuals under the age of 21 to occur at a place under their control, whether or not they provide the alcohol.

What Does the Law State?

- If the social host knows that an underage individual is in possession of an alcoholic beverage or drug, and the host does not take reasonable action to prevent the possession or consumption of the alcoholic beverage or drug then the host will be charged with a violation and face a maximum fine of \$500 and/or a maximum sentence of 60 days imprisonment. This is a misdemeanor of the 2nd Degree.

What is "Reasonable Corrective Action"?

- Reasonable corrective action shall include, but are not limited to:
 - o Making a prompt demand that the minor(s) stop drinking the alcoholic beverage or leave the premises; and
 - o If the minor refuses to comply with the request, the adult must promptly report the underage drinking to:
 - Local law enforcement
 - Any other person with greater degree of authority over the minor (e.g. the minor(s) parent(s) or guardian(s))

Liability Prevention Tips for Hosts:

- Never serve or allow alcohol to be served to minors in your home or on your property.
- Prevent alcohol from being served to or by minors when you are not home.
- Never purchase alcohol for minors.
- Always serve food at a party and provide plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.
- Limit your own drinking to look after your guests.

Help Keep Our Young Community Members Safe:

- For any Emergency, call 911.
- To request a deputy for non-emergency, please call the Pasco County Public Safety Communications Unit at 727-847-8102.
- To leave an anonymous message: If you have information on a reported or suspected crime, please contact either the Pasco Sheriff's Office Crime Tips Line at 1-800-706-2488 or contact Tampa Bay CrimeStoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS.