

Legal Repercussions of Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

The legal ramifications for drinking underage, or supplying alcohol to underage youth, vary by state. A person supplying alcohol to a minor (person under 21 years of age), or who allows alcohol or drugs to be used by a minor when he/she is in a position to prevent that use, may be liable for damages resulting from the minor's impairment and also may be arrested. For example, a person who supplies alcohol to minors or hosts a party where drinking is allowed could be assessed for significant damages if the minor, driving while impaired, causes a car crash inflicting injury to himself or others or to property.

California has a zero tolerance law. The legal maximum Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is 0.01% for drivers under 21. Less than one-half of a beer would put most teens over the legal limit.

Within the state of California, the following legal consequences can result for both youth and adults:

CRIMINAL CHARGE	CRIMINAL PENALTY	CITATION
DUI for Minor	<p>Minors with alcohol levels in excess of 0.05: alcohol education program (fee required), suspension of license until the earlier of program completion or turning 21 and participation in Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program.</p> <p>For any person (including minors) with a blood alcohol level of .08 or more: 48 hours to 6 months in jail and/or fine up to \$1,000.</p> <p>Probation, if Granted: 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>Driver's License: With probation: 90 days restriction. Without probation: Suspend 6 months and until DUI Program completed.</p> <p>DUI Program: 30 hours or more over a 3-month period. (45 hours over 6 months if B.A.C. 0.20% or if chemical test refused.)</p> <p>Vehicle: May impound vehicle up to 6 months and/or require ignition interlock.</p>	<p>Cal. Veh. Code §§23140, 23502, 23508</p> <p>Cal. Veh. Code §§ 13352(a)(1), 23152, 23536 and 23538</p>

Purchase or Possession of Alcohol by a Minor	Mandatory fine of at least \$250, or 24-32 hours of community service.	Cal. Business & Professions Code §25658(b)
Purchasing or Furnishing Alcohol for a Minor	Mandatory fine of \$1,000 and at least 24 hours of community service.	Cal. Business & Professions Code §25658(a)

A parent encourages his daughter to host a party at home, believing that it's "safer" to have the party at his own home. He purchases a few six packs of beer, knowing some guests will be underage.

The consequences: *For the misdemeanor conviction of providing alcohol to a minor, the adult can be sentenced to community service and fines of up to \$1,000, even on a first offense. Worse, the adult can be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, even if the minor is your own child, and will face up to a year in jail, five years probation and a \$2,500 fine.*

References

<http://www.youthbingedinking.org>