



PARTY SAFE

**DON'T
RISK IT**

WHAT'S LEGAL AND WHAT'S NOT

There are strong fines and penalties for anyone who illegally gives alcohol to under 18s. Parents and caregivers can still decide when their teenager may drink, but only in residential environments that offer "responsible supervision".

What is responsible supervision?

It means parents and caregivers must stay sober and supervise, if teens are drinking. This means providing food, water, and non-alcoholic options, and making sure no one gets drunk (even the parents).

PARENT FAQs

AT WHAT AGE CAN I LET MY TEENAGER DRINK?

Delay drinking for as long as possible because alcohol can damage a growing brain. For anyone under 18 years, the safest option is not drinking alcohol.

If teens are partying at your house, you're responsible for everyone under 18 there.

- Make sure you have parental and caregiver approval for everyone drinking at your house
- Stay sober
- Prevent people from getting drunk
- Supply food, water, and encourage non-alcoholic and low-alcohol options

SHOULD I LET MY TEENAGER DRINK?

There is no safe level of alcohol consumption for under 18s. To reduce the harms caused by alcohol, the Australian Alcohol Guidelines recommend that under 18s should not drink alcohol. Alcohol affects the growing brain and increases the risk of injury.

Despite some parents believing that introducing alcohol to their child early is the right thing to do, it can put them at greater risk of longer-term alcohol related harms, including alcohol use disorders that can appear in adulthood.

CAN MY TEEN DRINK AT HOME?

Yes, if you provide responsible supervision.

CAN I GIVE ALCOHOL TO MY TEEN'S UNDERAGE FRIEND OR RELATIVE?

Only with permission from their parent/caregiver, and with responsible supervision. If you give alcohol to anyone under 18 without a parent's permission (by text, email or in-person) you could face a \$10,000 fine.

DOES PERMISSION NEED TO BE IN WRITING?

No. It can be given verbally, in writing, or by text. The supplying adult must be able to prove it if asked.

CAN I PROVIDE ALCOHOL AT AN 18TH BIRTHDAY PARTY?

Yes, but you must have parent/caregiver permission for every underage guest and provide direct supervision. Be aware though, parties don't always go as planned and social media invites can spiral. Avoid gatecrashers by creating an invitation-only guest list and check-in people at the door (just like a nightclub would).

WHAT IF MY TEEN THROWS A PARTY WHILE I'M AWAY?

If your under 18 throws a party with alcohol while you're away, they can be fined \$2,500. If you knew about it, you could be fined \$10,000.

WHAT IF TEENS BRING THEIR OWN ALCOHOL TO MY PARTY?

If you don't supply it, you're not in breach of the law. But the underage teen and whoever supplied them may be.

CAN I SUPPLY ALCOHOL AT A HALL, WAREHOUSE OR VENUE?

No. Alcohol cannot be supplied to under 18s at any non-residential private property or licensed venue (warehouse parties, formals, and after-parties), even if there's a liquor licence. It is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18.

CAN AN ADULT SIBLING GIVE ALCOHOL TO A TEEN?

Yes, but only with parent/caregiver permission and with responsible supervision, unless the sibling is acting as the teen's legal guardian.

WHAT ABOUT ORGANISED PARTIES?

If an event is in a public place with entry fees (e.g. after-formal or warehouse parties), alcohol must not be supplied to under 18s.

Parks, picnics, and other outdoor spaces follow the same rules as homes: parental permission and "responsible supervision" are required. Check with your local council or police if unsure.

Penalties apply for breaching these laws.

- Teenagers: a fine of up to \$2,500 (plus \$210 on-the-spot)
- Adults: a fine of up to \$10,000 (plus \$500 on-the-spot)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) alcohol guidelines: www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/alcohol

SA Health:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/alcohol/alcohol

Support to address drug and alcohol use:

Visit www.knowyouroptions.sa.gov.au

Call the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) on 1300 131 340. This is a confidential telephone service available any day between 8:30 am and 10 pm.



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Consumer and Business Services