

Washington County Social Host Ordinance

The Washington County Community Prevention Center wishes to remind all parents and adults during graduation and year round to promote safe, healthy and fun parties for your students and graduates without alcohol. Remember, hosting and/or providing alcoholic beverages to a minor (under 21) is illegal. When you consider the potential consequences such as, drunkenness, fights, arrests, fines, rape, binge drinking, potential long-term brain damage and death; you must ask yourself if it is really worth the risk. May 2007, the Washington County Fiscal Court passed the Social Host Ordinance which states:

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WASHINGTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
ORDINANCE NO. 2007-

An ordinance related to the regulation of underage drinking of alcoholic beverages in Washington County, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, The Washington County Fiscal Court has determined that it is in the public interest to adopt a county ordinance to regulate underage drinking of alcoholic beverages and to hold adults responsible for allowing or acquiescing to underage possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Prohibition.

- A. No person being the owner or occupant or otherwise in possession or control of any property located within Washington County shall knowingly allow any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years to remain on such property while in the possession of or while consuming alcoholic beverages as defined in KRS 241.010.
- B. No person being the parent or guardian or otherwise having the care, custody, or control of any minor shall knowingly allow the minor to violate any of the provisions of this ordinance or other laws regulating minors consuming alcohol.
- C. No person shall aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or in any way contribute to a minor violating any of the provisions of this ordinance or any other law regulating the consumption of alcohol by minors.
- D. No person shall aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or in any way facilitate a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years in violation any of the provisions of this ordinance or any other law regulating the consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years.
- E. It shall be an affirmative defense under this ordinance if the person charged with any offense under this ordinance, within one (1) hour after the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years, enlisted the aid of and cooperated with law enforcement personnel to cause underage persons who are in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages in violation of this ordinance to be removed from the property.

Section 2. Penalties.

The penalties for violation of this ordinance shall be as follows:

- a. For the first violation, a fine not exceeding Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00);
- b. For subsequent violations a fine not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);
- c. Violators may also be subject to additional penalties including fines and/or incarceration under the provisions of Chapters 244, 530, and 600 and other chapters of Kentucky Revised Statutes and may be subject further to civil actions by persons damaged by violation of the provisions of this ordinance.