

CONNECTICUT UNDERAGE LIQUOR/ DRINKING LAWS

New Underage Drinking Law

Public Act: PA 06-112

AN ACT CONCERNING UNDERAGE DRINKING

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

SUMMARY: This act makes it illegal for someone who possesses or controls private property, including a dwelling unit, to (1) knowingly permit a minor to illegally possess alcohol in the unit or on the property or (2) fail to make reasonable efforts to stop a minor from possessing alcohol in the unit or on the property when he knows the minor possesses alcohol illegally. The act makes a first offense an infraction and subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

The act makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places. Under prior law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places was a fine of \$200 to \$500. The act makes this the penalty for second and subsequent offenses of illegal possession, regardless of location, and makes a first offense an infraction.

Under prior law, the provisions on illegal possession by minors did not apply to a minor who possessed alcohol while accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse over age 21. The act specifies that it must be the minor's parent, guardian, or spouse.

The act also specifies that the prohibitions on illegal possession and those against selling, shipping, delivering, or giving alcohol to minors cannot be construed to burden a person's exercise of religion as protected by the state constitution.

Other Exceptions to Illegal Possession by Minors

By law, the provisions on illegal possession by minors do not apply to a minor who (1) is over age 18 and possesses alcohol in the course of employment or (2) possesses alcohol on a physician's order.

Summary of Other CT Underage Drinking Laws

	Summary	Public Act Statute	Penalty
Possession of Alcohol by Minors	Prohibits possession of alcohol by minor on both public and private property	Sec. 30-89b Sec. 14-111	First offense: \$181 fine Subsequent Offenses: A fine up to \$500 Subject to a 150 day suspension of motor vehicle license. If not licensed, must wait additional 150 days after eligible for license.
	Prohibits possession by minor of liquor in a motor vehicle	Sec. 14-111a	Subject to a 60 day suspension of motor vehicle license.
Sale or Provision of Alcohol to Minors	Prohibits permittee or agent of permittee from selling or delivering liquor to minor <i>*Includes internet sales</i>	Sec. 30-86	Up to 1 year in prison, and/or fine up to \$1,000
	Prohibits anyone from allowing minors to possess alcohol or “host” underage drinking parties	PA. 06-112	First offense: \$146 fine Subsequent Offenses: Up to 1 year in prison and/or fine up to \$500
	Prohibits anyone giving or delivering liquor to a minor	Sec. 30-86	Up to 18 months in prison, and/or fine up to \$1,000
	Prohibits permittee or employees from allowing minors to loiter on premises where liquor is kept for sale, or where liquor is served at a bar	Sec. 30-90	Up to 1 year in prison, and/or fine up to \$1,000
	Permits holders of café permits to create “juice bars,” meaning an area of liquor establishment where nonalcoholic beverages are sold to minors. <i>Requires that café permit holders notify local police in advance of date when “juice bar” will be made available</i>	Sec. 30-85	Up to 1 year in prison, and/or fine up to \$1,000
	Prohibits the sale, purchase, or possession of alcohol without liquid (alcohol vaporization) machines	PA. 06-95	Up to 6 months in prison, and/or fine up to \$1,000
Fake/ False Identification	Prohibits the misrepresentation of age or committing deception to obtain identity card, or using another’s card	Sec. 30-88a Sec. 14-111e	Up to 30 days in prison, and/or fine up to \$500 Subject to 150 days suspension of motor vehicle license. If not licensed, must wait additional 150 days after eligible for license.
	Prohibits purchase, attempt to purchase, or making false statements to procure	Sec. 30-89	A fine up to \$500
	Prohibits willfully misrepresenting age on an age statement	Sec. 30-86a	First offense: \$100 Subsequent offenses: \$250 fine
	Possession of a keg without the proper identification tag Providing false identification of keg registration receipt	Sec. 30-115	Up to 3 months in prison and/or a fine up to \$500
Youth DUI Zero Tolerance	Prohibits minors from operating a motor vehicle if their blood-alcohol-content (BAC) is higher than .02	Sec. 14-227g	First offense: Up to 6 months in prison with 48 hours of community service, and/or a fine up to \$1,000 <i>Subject to a 90 day suspension of driver’s license</i> Second offense: Up to 2 years in prison with 120 days of community service, and/or a fine up to \$4,000 <i>Subject to a 9 month suspension of driver’s license</i> Third offense: Up to 3 years in prison with 1 year community service, and/or a fine up to \$8,000 <i>Subject to a 2 year suspension of driver’s license</i>