

Underage Drinking Laws



Presented by the Cape Elizabeth
Police Department in partnership with
Maine's Environmental Substance
Abuse Prevention Center

Underage Drinking Facts

- Drinking can lead to loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, and even blackouts.
- "Binge" drinking means having five or more drinks on one occasion. Studies show that 35 percent of adults with alcohol problems developed symptoms by age 19.
- It is illegal to buy and possess alcohol if you are under 21.

Underage Drinking Facts Continued

- If you are under 21 and operate a vehicle with any amount of alcohol in your system, your license will be suspended.
- Drinking large amounts at one time or very rapidly can cause alcohol poisoning, which can lead to a coma or even death.
- In 2003, 31 percent of drivers age 15 to 20 who died in traffic accidents had been drinking alcohol.

Furnishing Alcohol To Minors Is A Class D Crime

- Furnishing alcohol to minors can result in fines up to \$1,500 and jail time. The crime becomes a felony if someone is injured as a result of you furnishing the alcohol.



Furnishing A Place For Minors To Consume Alcohol Is A Crime

- Furnishing a place for minors to consume alcohol is a class D crime resulting in fines up to \$2,000 and possible jail time. If someone gets injured, the crime becomes a felony.



Don't Take The Chance

- If you are under 21 and possess or transport alcohol, you will face fines up to \$600.00 and have your privilege to operate a motor vehicle suspended.



Get Help

- If you think your son, daughter, or any other member of the family has a drinking problem, seek services immediately.
- If you have any questions on the underage drinking laws or who to reach for help, contact the Cape Elizabeth Police Department at 767-3323.