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.
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 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.