

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Social Host Law Enacted to Prevent Adults from Hosting Alcohol Parties for Kids on Property They Lease, Rent or Own

Beginning July 1st, 2014, a new statewide Social Host law, which was signed by Governor Branstad will assess fines to adults who host or provide a place for teenagers under the age of 18 to drink alcohol. The law is in response to adults and parents who knowingly permit teenagers to hold alcohol dispensed parties in their residence or on property they own, rent or lease. There are currently 24 states who have enacted a Social Host Law similar to Iowa's 22 counties and 26 cities who have their own Social Host version. Local ordinances may be more restrictive than the state law. Clayton County will be enforcing the state law throughout the county as there is currently no local ordinance. Violators of the state law may be charged with a simple misdemeanor and potentially fined.

In response to the passage of this law, 5C, Clayton County Community Collaboration Council, encourage parents and adults to model appropriate behavior to help reduce the incident of underage drinking. Ultimately the coalition is working to help prevent youth from participating in illegal activities and to keep them safe. This new law will give law enforcement another tool to help combat this illegal activity.

According to the 2012 Iowa Youth Survey, 17% of 6th and 8th grade students in Clayton County reported alcohol use. The same survey showed 38% of 11th grade students reported alcohol use within the last 30 days and 24% reported binge drinking within the same time frame. Binge drinking is defined as 3 or more drinks for females and 4 or more drinks for males in one sitting. Research shows those who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin drinking alcohol at age 21.

5C will continue to raise awareness regarding the risks of underage drinking and adult binge drinking throughout Clayton County through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG). The SPF SIG project is funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through the Iowa Department of Public Health in a statewide effort to reduce underage drinking and adult binge drinking. 5C has also made efforts to implement classroom activities for youth to increase their knowledge of the risks surrounding alcohol. Prepared with the knowledge and the skills to handle peer pressure, youth are better prepared to make informed decisions in their lives.

If you would like to know about 5C and efforts to reduce underage drinking and adult binge drinking, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ClaytonCountyCCC, or call at 245-1546.

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