

# An Issue of Influence...

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May 2011

## What is the SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE?



This is the time of the year we anxiously await the end of the school year. We all have our reasons: Students are out for summer vacation, parents are figuring how to occupy their children's time, merchants are bracing themselves for the influx of locals and tourists and many are looking for a job. But our graduates are starting a new chapter in their lives. So we celebrate the end of mandatory school and beginning of so many choices for the future with excitement and fear by hosting a big event and invite friends and relatives to celebrate the accomplishment of graduation.

The Hubbard County Youth Drug and Alcohol Taskforce, Hubbard County Attorney, Hubbard County Sheriff and Park Rapids Police would like to congratulate our area graduates and their parents/guardians on this achievement and encourage all to enjoy this time in life and the life of the graduate. Go ahead and celebrate, but do so responsibly by doing what you can to take alcohol and other dangers out of the picture during this time of celebration. The risks and liabilities are far too great for our area youth. Alcohol and other drugs have been associated with an increase in accidents and fatalities during the weeks before and after prom and graduation.

These accidents are not only unnecessary and at times life altering, but carry both civil and legal liabilities for the provider of the alcohol or *now the host of the party*. Hubbard County passed a Social Host Ordinance last fall making it not only illegal to provide alcohol to an underage individual, but also to knowingly host those individuals who are consuming alcohol. This ordinance carries a \$1000.00 fine, up to 90 days in jail or both. This is a criminal offense and will require a court appearance.

*A host is defined as a person or persons who knowingly aids, conducts, allows, entertains, organizes, supervises, controls, or permits a gathering or event where minor individuals are drinking alcohol.*

So what does this mean? It means that if anyone under the age of 21 is consuming alcohol and the hosts of the gathering are aware, there is legal liability. This ordinance reaches far beyond graduation parties to fields, and campfires and boats, etc. It is something you should be aware of and do what you can to eliminate risk to yourself and your guests, invited or uninvited.

You can access the Social Host Ordinance at: [www.co.hubbard.mn.us](http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us).

Enjoy this time of celebration, spend quality time with the graduates, friends and relatives. Make it a time of great lasting memories, not a time you want to forget....

***It is An Issue of Influence.***

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### Upcoming Events!



**Laporte and Nevis  
Graduations:**  
May 27th, 2011 at 7 pm

**Park Rapids  
Graduation:**  
May 29th, 2011 at 2 pm

*Check into youth trips and  
camps this summer!*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Back to School Bash**  
August 27th, 2011  
*Details to be announced*





### Safe Event Planning Tips

- ◆ *Limit your guest list. Avoid having an "open" party where anyone is welcome to just drop by.*
- ◆ *Host an afternoon or early evening party and have a clear starting and ending time for the event.*
- ◆ *Let parents of other graduates know you will be actively supervising the party and that you welcome phone calls from them.*
- ◆ *Be clear with your graduate and other underage guests on what is acceptable behavior including no alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc.*
- ◆ *If a youth arrives under the influence of alcohol or drugs, call their parents and get them home safely.*
- ◆ *Secure all alcohol, prescription and over-the-counter medications, guns and other items that may pose danger if accessed by others.*
- ◆ *Know your teen's schedule for the evening, who they will be with, and who will be driving. Keep in contact with them during the evening by calling or texting them. And offer to be available if they need you if they end up in a possible dangerous situation, no questions asked.*



7 days/week, 24 hours/day,  
365/year safe disposal of  
medication at the Hubbard  
County Sheriff's Office:  
301 Court Ave.  
Park Rapids, MN

- Leave medication in the original container.
- Remove your name & personal information.
- Keep the name of the medication.
- Drop medication into the disposal box.

Call 218-237-4114 or log onto  
hubbardcountydrugfree.org  
for more information.



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P.O. Box 853  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
Phone: 218-252-8275

hcydatt@yahoo.com  
www.hubbardcountydrugfree.org

### Party Hopping Safety!

Here are some steps  
parents like can take to keep  
their graduate safe:

- 1) Set a curfew.
- 2) Know the tentative plan and route they will be taking.
- 3) Communicate with your youth to let them know you care how they are and what they are up to.
- 4) Talk about your expectations for their behavior that night.

Make a plan about what to  
do if they find themselves:

- Getting in a car with a drunk or drugged driver
- Being encouraged to use drugs or alcohol
- Being pressured go too far with intimacy.

- 5) Be available that night and listen instead of scold so you will be the one they call if they need help!

## Sign the Pledge

Sign the pledge to keep your  
graduation and other gatherings free  
of underage drinking and receive a

**FREE Digital Photo**

of your graduate to print or pass on.  
A photographer will be onsite to take  
a portrait of you and your grad, your  
grad receiving his/her diploma or a  
class picture. You pick your free photo  
and you can order more if you like. It  
is \$20.00 for each 5X7 portrait  
you would like after that!

### I pledge

- to encourage youth to be substance-free by:
- Hosting only sober, alcohol-free activities and events for youth
  - Not allowing my children or their friends to possess or consume alcohol, tobacco or other drugs on my property
  - Discouraging my children from attending unattended parties

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to allow my name to be printed in  
connection with any publicity regarding  
this pledge.

### Protect your children by following these guidelines when hosting teen parties

- Host only alcohol-free activities and events for youth
- Refuse to supply alcohol to a minor or allow drinking in your house on your property
- Be at home when your teenager has a party
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your house
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events