

HARVARD COLLEGE



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

UNIVERSITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY LAW

All students in Harvard College should be aware of the provisions of the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law prohibiting the sale, delivery or furnishing of alcohol to minors.

Massachusetts law prohibits the sale, delivery, or furnishing of alcohol to persons under 21. In addition, a social host may under certain circumstances be held liable for injuries caused by a guest who, having consumed alcohol at the host's premises, does harm to himself or herself or to a third party. If the guest is a minor (i.e., under 18), and the host knew or reasonably should have known that it was furnishing alcohol to a minor, the host may be held responsible for injuries or damage to the minor or to third parties caused by the minor's alcohol-influenced actions. Furthermore, even if the guest was not a minor, a social host may be liable for injuries to third parties if the host knew or should have known that the guest was intoxicated but, nevertheless, gave him or her, or permitted him or her to take, an alcoholic drink.

For further information on the effects of alcohol, see

http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~empower/bewell/alcohol_drug_abuse.html

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