



State of Illinois
Liquor Control Commission

The A College Parent's Guide On Underage Drinking

Bottom Line



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This handbook was produced with the advice of college professionals in the fields of education, family therapy, student health and wellness.



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Do you know the consequences of your teen's behavior?

So, your kid is off to college. What an exciting adventure ahead for this young adult! As a parent of a college student, you want your son or daughter to have a productive and enjoyable college experience. For most of you, it is the first time your children are spending long periods of time away from home. As they make the transition to the campus culture, are you prepared to discuss the pressures many students feel in a new social setting?

While they face many pressures, one of the most important matters to discuss is underage drinking. Parents should address this subject with every college student. It is important that you as a parent communicate the laws and consequences of underage drinking so your son or daughter can make responsible choices.

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission has produced this brochure to provide you with the "Bottom Line" facts regarding the underage drinking laws in Illinois. We hope that you share this information with your son or daughter as they begin a new life on their own at college.



1

Did you know that minors could lose their drivers' licenses for having a **single drink of alcohol?**

The State of Illinois enforces a strict **"Use It and Lose It"** zero tolerance law for underage drinking and driving. Under Illinois law, drivers under the age of 21 found with any trace of alcohol in their system will lose their driving privileges. Even if your son or daughter is not behind the wheel, underage drinking is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500 and/or jail time up to six months.

"Use It & Lose It" Penalties

Offense	Loss of license
Test Failure 1st Violation	3 months
Test Refusal 1st Violation	6 months
Test Failure 2nd Violation (before age 21)	1 year
Test Refusal 2nd Violation	2 years

The Illinois Zero Tolerance Law:

Anyone under 21 arrested while drinking and driving could face a three-month driver's license suspension for a first offense. Consumption of **just one can of beer** can result in a suspension.

Effect on driving record

"Use It & Lose It"

A suspension remains on the public record during the suspension period. It is removed from the record if no subsequent violations occur.



2

Some **important facts** to **remember**

- Possession of alcohol by an individual under the age of 21 – **regardless of whether they are driving at the time** – can result in a three-month suspension of driving privileges, even if you receive court supervision for the infraction. The penalty increases to a six-month suspension for first conviction, one year for second conviction, and license revocation for subsequent convictions.
- Contrary to popular opinion, **not all college students drink alcohol**. During a recent survey of college students, over a third of underage college students reported they did not consume ANY alcohol in the past 30 days.
- The higher the average number of drinks a student consumes, the lower their reported grades. For example, students with an "A" grade point average reported a consumption rate of approximately four drinks per week, while "D" students consumed nearly ten drinks per week on average.
- Parents who allow underage drinking in their home while they are present can be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine up to \$2,500 and possible jail time. Parents are subject to a felony – **up to three years in prison and a \$25,000 fine** – if the underage drinking leads to serious injury or death.

Possession or use of a fake driver's license or state ID:

Penalty: Class A Misdemeanor (automatic one-year suspension of your driver's license, up to one year in jail, and fines up to \$2,500).

Displaying another person's driver's license or state ID as your own or lending yours to another person:

Penalty: Class A Misdemeanor (automatic one-year suspension driver's license suspension for both parties, up to one year in jail, and fines up to \$2,500).

Altering or manufacturing a driver's license or state ID:

Penalty: Class 4 Felony (automatic one-year driver's license suspension plus up to three years in prison and a \$25,000 fine).

What are the penalties if a minor is convicted of a **DUI**?

In Illinois, the DUI laws are tougher and more expensive on minors than adults. Bail money, an attorney, fines, court costs, installation of the required breath-activated ignition device, and remedial education or treatment programs – not to mention the skyrocketing cost of the resulting high-risk insurance – are just some of the consequences for DUI offenders. If convicted of a DUI, an automatic two-year suspension of your child's driver's license will cost time, possible loss of work and probably lots of inconvenience and extra driving for parents.

Consequences of DUI convictions

Offense	Consequences
1st CONVICTION	Up to a year in jail and fines up to \$2,500. two-year minimum revocation of driver's license. Not eligible for driving relief (for example, driving to work to school) until the second year.
2nd CONVICTION	Up to a year in jail and fines up to \$2,500. Revocation of driver's license for minimum of five years or until age 21, whichever is longer. Mandatory minimum imprisonment of five days (or 240 hours of community service).
AGGRAVATED DUI:	Any DUI resulting in a felony charge, including a DUI resulting in great bodily harm or death; a third or subsequent DUI conviction; or committing a DUI without a valid license, permit, or insurance. PENALTIES INCLUDE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Imprisonment of up to 14 years for DUI resulting in the loss of life. ● Imprisonment of up to 28 years for multiple fatalities. ● Felony charges vary for offense from a Class 4 felony (one to three years imprisonment) to a Class X felony (6-30 years). ● Minimum revocation periods vary for offense from a minimum of one year to mandatory life.



Estimated cost of a DUI in Illinois

Item	Costs	Total
Insurance	High-risk insurance - \$1,500/yr (required for three years)	\$4,500
Legal Fees	Uncontested plea and hardship Driving permit	\$2,000
Court Costs	Up to a \$2,500 fine, \$750 for DUI Court trial, \$250 for reimbursements to law enforcement, towing, and storage fees, \$100 trauma center fund	\$3,600
Rehabilitation	Remedial substance abuse class at \$50 and counseling fees at \$200	\$250
Driver's License	\$500 reinstatement fee, plus \$30 for new license and \$50 formal hearing fee	\$580
BAIID	\$100 for installation of BAIID (Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device), \$960/year rental fee (\$80 per month), \$360/year monitoring fee (\$30 per month)	\$1,420
Total Estimated Cost		\$12,350

Additional costs associated with a DUI Crash

Consequences	Costs
Medical treatment for a crash involving injuries or fatalities	\$100,000+
Compensatory damages awarded to crash survivors	\$10,000+
In-patient substance abuse programs	\$3,500+
Legal fees for trials and civil proceedings	\$5,000+

How are parents held accountable?

Studies have shown that alcohol can impair a young person's judgment when it comes to attending classes, driving an automobile and sexual behavior. The wrong decisions could ruin their college experience and lead to unnecessary consequences.

Parents can also make the wrong decisions by allowing their underage son or daughter to drink. In Illinois, tougher laws are increasingly focused on the making the parents responsible for the illegal actions of their children. On the following page, we have outlined the laws and consequences that specifically target parents.

Parental responsibilities and consequences

Parental responsibility LAW:

Applies to parents or guardians who knowingly allow underage drinking at parties in their homes. Penalties: Class A misdemeanor with possible imprisonment for up to one year and fines of \$500 to \$2,500. Felony charges (1-3 years in prison and up to a \$25,000) can be filed against the parents if underage drinking leads to serious injury or death.

Civil lawsuits:

If your underage child has been involved in a crash that injures another person, parents may be sued for monetary damages.

Hotel/Motel responsibility LAW:

Applies to anyone over 21 who knowingly rents a room or pays for a hotel room or facility knowing alcohol will be served to underage individuals. Penalties: Class A misdemeanor with imprisonment up to one year and fines up to \$2,000. Persons over 21 paying for the hotel room will be liable for any injuries or damage to persons or property caused by the underage drinkers.

Providing alcohol to a minor:

Providing alcohol to an individual under the age of 21.
Penalties: Up to a \$2,500 fine and a possible prison term.

Conversations to have with your child

- 36% of teen drivers killed in motor-vehicle crashes had alcohol in their system at the time of the crash.
- Encourage your student to call for help if a friend is in a dangerous situation that requires medical intervention.
- Colleges and universities usually provide counseling services for anything from academic support to alcohol dependence. Let your college-bound child know these services are available.
- Encourage your son or daughter to confront a friend they suspect might have a problem with alcohol.
- According to a study published in the June 2011 issue of *Injury Prevention*, college students who reported alcohol-induced memory blackouts are at a higher risk of alcohol-related injuries than those who didn't blackout.
- College students are the most at risk to die of alcohol poisoning, and more than half of those who die are under the legal drinking age of 21. Additionally, college freshmen are the most susceptible to succumbing to an alcohol poisoning episode.



What should you be doing as a parent of a college-age child?

Parents continue to have a strong influence on their children, even when they go away to college – and **students are at their greatest risk during the first six weeks of school.**

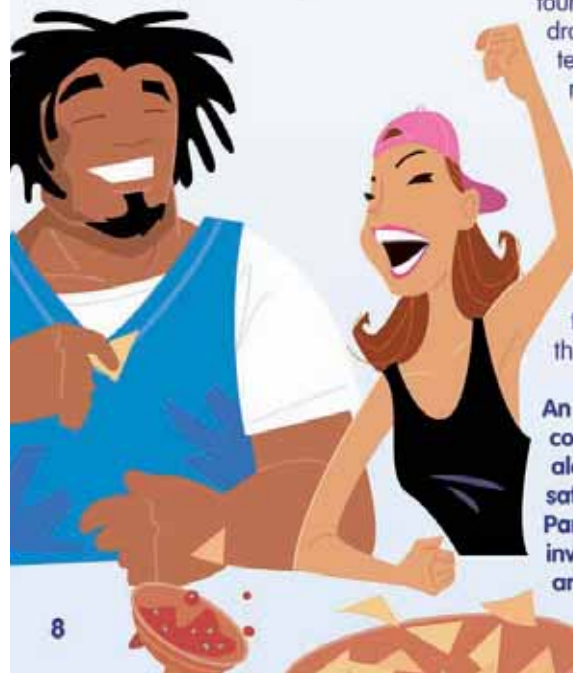
Students are at their greatest risk during the first six weeks of school. Help your son or daughter avoid falling into the wrong crowd or making bad decisions regarding alcohol by keeping in contact with them. You may want to call, write, text or e-mail frequently and be open and supportive. Ask questions such as: Do you like your classes? What is the party scene like? What kinds of activities are available? Are you enjoying dorm life? How are you getting along with your roommate? Are you feeling overwhelmed? What can we do to help?

It is important to remember that a more permissive parenting approach to alcohol can encourage drinking – and not necessarily safe, responsible drinking. A study in the May 2011 issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*

found that high school children who drank alcohol in front of their parents tended to drink more and encounter more alcohol-related trouble later on, including more fights, blackouts, regrettable sex, and binge-drinking incidents.

Remind your children of family beliefs and values regarding alcohol. Let them know that you trust them and want them to get the most out of their college years.

An important responsibility of any college or university is to monitor alcohol use on campus for the safety and welfare of all students. Parents can help by staying involved with their kids when they are at college.



The **bottom** Line

- You can help deter drinking problems by setting a good example. Be moderate or abstain in your own use of alcohol. "Do as I say, not as I do" just doesn't cut it with this group.
- Set reasonable but firm rules that you plan to enforce. Explain the facts about alcohol as well as your family's opinions.
- Teach your children about true friendship. When peer pressure hits, they'll be able to stand up to their friends. You should get to know their friends.
- Don't be naive. Watch for signs of abuse such as different friends, missing money and withdrawal from the family. If you sense a problem, seek help. It could save their life.
- Let your son or daughter know that the majority of college students don't abuse alcohol.
- Get Involved! Keep the communication lines open. Know the laws and the consequences of underage drinking and discuss them with your son or daughter.



Statistics listed in this publication was gathered from data compiled by the Illinois Higher Education Center, Illinois Secretary of State's Office, and Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety.



Illinois Liquor Control Commission

For more information, visit www.DontBeSorry.org

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