

Know The Law

A Few Words from Jeff Lawler

Barrington Village Mgr & Former Chief of Police

UNDERAGE PROSESSION OF ALCOHOL

An underage person (under 21 years of age) may not purchase, receive, accept, have in his or her possession or control, or consume any alcoholic beverages. It is also illegal for an underage person to remain in a vehicle, house, apartment, yard, or other area where one or more other underage persons are in possession of any alcoholic beverages. The owner of the vehicle, house, yard used by underage drinkers is also acting in an illegal manner and can be arrested.

Misrepresenting your age for the purpose of purchasing alcohol is illegal and carries additional legal sanctions. Any person purchasing or obtaining alcohol may not give the alcohol to an underage person and will be arrested for doing so.

If you are under 21 years of age and convicted of the illegal purchase, possession, or consumption of alcohol, your driver's license will be suspended for 6 months on the first conviction and for longer time periods for subsequent convictions.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Driving is a privilege and a great responsibility for adults and minors. That privilege is violated when an individual drives under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The consequences are many for choosing to drive under the influence. First there is the arrest, the towing of your vehicle and of course the blotter item in your local newspaper listing your name as arrested for DUI. Then there is the time away from school and work to attend court. Then there is the administrative penalty for DUI. The first offense for DUI is suspension of your driving privileges for six months. If you refuse to take the test required of you when arrested for DUI, then the suspension period is increased to twelve months. If you are eligible to receive a driving relief permit in order to drive to work during the suspension period, you must have a breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device installed on your vehicle. Drivers under 18 years old are not eligible for the judicial driving permit.

If the administrative suspension of your driver's license is not worthy of your attention, the criminal penalties may be. On a first conviction of Driving Under the Influence you could receive jail time and a fine up to \$2,500, and if you are under 21 years old you can receive revocation of your driver's license for two years.

A DUI conviction is a permanent part of your driving record and you will be required to carry high-risk (very expensive) auto insurance for three years. And then, before your license can be reinstated you will be required to complete an alcohol/drug evaluation and remedial education course, also at your cost. All told, the total average cost for a DUI conviction in Illinois is \$14,660.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Now that you believe you know the rules for underage drinking, I want to provide you with one more underage drinking law, Zero Tolerance. If you are under age 21 and are driving your vehicle and stopped by the police and have any trace of alcohol in your body you will be arrested for violating the Zero Tolerance Law. There is no threshold alcohol level for drivers under the age of 21. Any detected alcohol in your body will cause you to be arrested. You will lose your driver's license for three months if you take & fail the required tests, and for six months if you refuse to take the tests.

It is your choice whether to possess or use alcohol while underage, or to drive your vehicle with alcohol in your body. But now that you know the consequences you need to ask yourself...
Is it worth it?