WHAT IS THE SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE?
- Starting December 4, 2014, Eureka residents can be fined or prosecuted for hosting or allowing underage drinking gatherings at a residence or other private property.
- The host is the person in control of the premises where the gathering occurs or the person who aids, conducts, allows or supervises the gathering or event.

WHAT IS AN UNDERAGE DRINKING GATHERING?
- A party or gathering with three or more persons at a residence or private property where alcoholic beverages are available to persons under 21 years of age.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION?
- A person who conducts, allows or organizes an underage drinking gathering can be charged with an infraction or misdemeanor violation.
- The minimum fine for a first violation is $250 with fines of $500 for a second offense and $1,000 for a third offense within any 12-month period.
- If the person responsible for the event is under 18 years of age, the parents or guardians of the juvenile may be liable for penalties and response costs.
- Repeat violators will be held responsible for payment of city costs associated with providing police or other public services.

WHY DOES EUREKA NEED THIS LAW?
- Nearly half of Eureka teens surveyed report that most drinking happens at home parties.
- Alcohol is the leading drug used on a regular basis by teens in Humboldt County.
- One in three Eureka 11th graders report binge drinking in the last 30 days.
- Nearly one third of Eureka 11th graders have driven a car after drinking or been driven by a friend who had been drinking.
- On average, 12 youths per month are treated at local emergency rooms for alcohol-related health incidents.

Social host laws help reduce underage drinking parties and related problems such as sexual assault, drunk driving, injury, alcohol poisoning, neighborhood disturbances and property damage.

BE SAFE. BE RESPONSIBLE.
- Do not provide alcohol to anyone under 21.
- Secure your liquor cabinet.
- Report unruly parties and underage drinking by calling:

Eureka Police Department: 707-441-4044

Humboldt Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) is a partnership of local groups and individuals dedicated to preventing substance use among youth in Humboldt County. Since 2002, the coalition has worked to build a safe and healthy community free of alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm. To learn more, call 707-445-6023.

The ordinance does not apply to conduct solely between an underage person and his/her parents or legally protected religious observances.