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Under 21 Drinking is a Crime

Disclaimer:

The tips in this presentation are general in nature. Please use your discretion while following them. The author does not guarantee legal validity of the tips contained herein.

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Juvenile Defense Attorney

- Criminal defense in juvenile court is very different from the adult juvenile justice system.
- Talk with Juvenile defense attorney New York who has experience in juvenile court for the particular jurisdiction in which your adolescent son or daughter is charged.



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What is Juvenile Criminal law?

- Juvenile crime law only deals with under-age individuals, who are treated very differently than adults in criminal law, and usually have their own courts of law.
- In Connecticut, New York, and North Carolina, a juvenile is a person under the age of 16.



Juvenile Drinking Laws

- The laws regarding juvenile drinking vary considerably from state to state.
- Depending on where you or your child lives and the circumstances involved, the juvenile offense of underage drinking might result in no punishment at all or a misdemeanor charge.
- The legal drinking age is 21 in all states.



Juvenile Drinking - Status Offense...

- Some states consider juvenile drinking a "status offense" - an activity that is legal for an adult but illegal for a minor.
- In states where minors become adults at age 18, this status offense creates confusion.
- When legal adults under the age of 21 consume alcohol, the law can charge them as adults.



Juvenile Drinking - Status Offense

- In states that consider juvenile drinking a status offense, an arresting officer might release offenders younger than 18 into their parents' custody.
- Alternatively, they might charge them with a minor offense that generally does not involve juvenile detention.



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Laws Based on Location and Circumstances

- Many states base the offense of juvenile drinking on where the child is drinking and with whom.
- Few states allow a minor going into a bar or drinking establishment with a parent or guardian.
- More than half of all states allow a minor to drink at home or on private property with a parent's consent.



Penalties

- Younger teenagers may face restrictions on their driver's licenses.
- There may be fines or even jail time if the underage drinker is over 18.



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Adults Can Be Charged

- In some states, adults who serve liquor to juveniles or knowingly allow juveniles to consume alcohol in their homes can be charged with a criminal offense.
- If juveniles are hurt or killed after drinking in a private residence, the adults responsible for the residence might face charges.
- In some states, parents will be charged even if they're not at home and therefore unaware that the juveniles are drinking.



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Contact Juvenile Defense Attorney, New York

- Mr. Petrus understands that if your child has been accused of breaking the law, you will want representation considerate of your child's unique situation.
- Mr. Petrus will provided such representation and also listens to the concerns of parents.



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