



For Parents

Furnishing Liquor or Imitation Liquor to a Minor

It is a criminal offense for any person, adult or minor, to furnish liquor or imitation liquor to a minor, or allow a minor under that person's control, or in any place under that person's control, to possess or consume liquor or imitation liquor. This offense may result in fines from \$500 to \$2,000 and/or a jail sentence from 6-12 months. If an injury or death occurs, the person responsible for furnishing the alcohol may be charged with a felony.

Maine Liquor Liability Act

The Maine Liquor Liability Act was established to provide a legal basis for obtaining compensation for damages as a result of intoxication and related incidents. A non-licensed, social host (any person who does not hold a Maine Liquor License) can be sued for negligent or reckless conduct under this law.

By definition, negligent conduct is the providing of liquor to a minor or visibly intoxicated person, if the defendant knows or a reasonable and prudent person should have known the person being served is a minor or is visibly intoxicated.

Reckless conduct is the intentional serving of liquor to a person when the server knows the person being served is a minor, or visibly intoxicated, and the defendant consciously disregards an obvious and substantial risk that serving liquor to that person will cause physical harm to the drinker or to others.

Financial Implications

Damages may be awarded for property damage, bodily injury, or death caused by the consumption of liquor served by the defendant. The limit on awards is \$250,000 plus medical expenses (no limit).

Because providing alcohol to a minor or to a visibly intoxicated person is a violation of law, your homeowner's insurance will not protect you in the case of a lawsuit.