



ANDERSONS
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LawTalk Blog



South Australia has introduced increased penalties for supplying alcohol to teenagers

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Changes to South Australia's liquor laws passed Parliament on 14 November 2017 and will come into effect on 18 December 2017. Just in time for Christmas!

Consumer and Business Services (part of the South Australian Government's Attorney General's Department) describes the changes as "*the first of several stages of reform, working towards a contemporary and safe liquor licensing system for our state*".

Higher penalties for illegal supply of alcohol to minors

Higher penalties have been introduced for people who illegally supply alcohol to a minor (a person under the age of 18 years) with a particular focus on parties (including parties at homes) or large events such as an organised under-age party where large groups of teenagers are supplied with alcohol.

"Under most circumstances the supply of alcohol to a minor is illegal"

Under most circumstances the supply of alcohol to a minor is illegal. However there are exemptions for example, a quick sip at the dinner table under supervision or at a teenagers' party, again under supervision, amongst other situations.

These higher penalties include:

Adult supplying alcohol illegally to a minor

An adult who supplies alcohol illegally to minor (a person under the age of 18 years) commits an offence with a \$10,000 maximum penalty or a \$500 on the spot fine depending on the circumstances of the offence.

It is important to note that an adult cannot give alcohol to teenagers attending a house party unless the parent or caregiver of the teenager has provided their permission and there is responsible supervision.

Responsible supervision includes the requirements that the adult supervising the party should be directly supervising the minors and should not be intoxicated or under the influence of illicit drugs amongst other things.

Minor caught with alcohol illegally

A minor who is caught with alcohol that has not been legally provided to them commits an offence which carries a \$2,500 maximum penalty or a \$250 on the spot fine depending on the circumstances of the offence.

If you are charged with supplying alcohol illegally to a minor or you are a minor caught with alcohol illegally it is important that you seek legal assistance as quickly as possible to maximise the options that are available to you in terms of negotiating or defending the charge or receiving a lenient penalty upon your guilty plea.

Please note, this Blog is posted in Adelaide, South Australia by Andersons Solicitors. It relates to South Australian legislation. Andersons Solicitors is a medium sized law firm servicing metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia across all areas of law for individuals and businesses.