

# IF YOU ARE UNDER 21

## Purchase or Possession

It is illegal for **ANYONE** under the age of 21 to purchase, attempt to purchase or possess alcohol. **Penalty:** Class 1 misdemeanor. With no criminal record, a person convicted can receive up to 100 hours community service and/or up to a \$1,000 fine. Also upon conviction, the court will file a conviction report with the DMV, and the Division will revoke that person's license.

A 19- or 20-year-old caught possessing beer or wine can be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor. A person found guilty may receive a fine of up to \$200.



## Underage Providers

A person under the age of 21 caught providing alcohol to underage persons will receive a Class 2 misdemeanor. Also upon conviction, the court will file a conviction report with the DMV, and the Division will revoke that person's license.

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# DRUNK DRIVING ILLEGAL AT ANY AGE

## Zero Tolerance

It is illegal for anyone underage the age of 21 to drive while consuming or after consuming alcohol. Any reading above 0.00 on an alcohol-screening test is sufficient evidence to convict and results in an immediate 30-day license revocation.

Refusing to take a Intoxilyzer can be used as sufficient evidence to convict, and the person's driver license will be automatically revoked for one year.

Punishment in addition to license revocation can include limited driving privileges and a class 2 misdemeanor that includes: community service, court costs (\$90), a fine of up to \$1000, attorney's fees (\$500 - \$1000) and an insurance premium increase of up to 400 percent.

## Over 21 - 0.08 BAC

North Carolina's drunk driving laws are among the toughest in the nation. If a driver's alcohol concentration meets or exceeds .08, he or she can be charged with driving while impaired (DWI). For a first conviction, a driver can receive:

- Mandatory revocation of his or her license for one year
- When his or her license is reinstated, the legal alcohol concentration is lowered to 0.04
- Minimum punishment: fine of up to \$200 and not less than 24 hours imprisonment and 24 hours of community service, or 30 days without a limited driving privilege or any combination of these
- Maximum punishment: fine of up to \$4,000 and not less than 30 days or more than 24 months imprisonment

Penalties only increase with subsequent offenses.

# FAKE IDENTIFICATION

## Manufacturing Fake Identification

It is illegal to make any type of fake identification document. Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor. With no criminal record, a person convicted can receive up to 100 hours community service and/or up to a \$1,000 fine. It is also illegal to sell a reproduced or false driver license or learner's permit. Penalty: Class I felony.



## Using Fake Identification

It is illegal for ANYONE to get alcohol using any type of fake ID. A law enacted December 1, 2001 made it illegal to use a fake ID to enter a place where alcohol is consumed. That includes driver licenses borrowed from siblings or friends that happen to look like you! **Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor.** Also upon conviction, the court will file a conviction report with the DMV and the Division will revoke that person's license.

## Letting Someone Borrow Your ID

It is also illegal for anyone to allow his or her driver license (or other identification document) to be used by another person to get alcohol. **Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor.** Also upon conviction, the court will file a conviction report with the DMV, and the Division will revoke that person's license.

# IF YOU ARE OVER 21

## Adult Providers

North Carolina has mandatory minimum penalties for people convicted of providing or helping provide alcohol to underage persons.

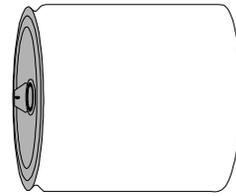
## Selling and Providing

A person convicted for the first time of selling or providing alcohol to someone under 21 will receive a minimum sentence of a \$250 fine and 25 hours community service.

## Aiding and Abetting

A person convicted for the first time of aiding and abetting the sale or provision of alcohol to someone under 21 will receive a minimum sentence of a \$500 fine and 25 hours community service.

For both charges, the fines and community service requirements increase with a subsequent offense within four years.



NC Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking  
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Since 1997, *The North Carolina Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking* has worked to change the way North Carolina deals with youth alcohol consumption. The Initiative is a statewide coalition of business leaders, public health professionals, law enforcement officials, retailers, youth leaders and public officials seeking to reduce underage consumption of alcohol through community involvement and policy change.

The Initiative is part of a national program supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by the American Medical Association. The Initiative is a project of the Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, a nonprofit organization that facilitates education and discussion about substance abuse issues among health professionals and their communities.

# UNDERAGE DRINKING



## EVEN IF YOU AREN'T THE ONE DRINKING