

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 10-03

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30
OF THE CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS CITY CODE
CONCERNING SOCIAL HOSTS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 30 of the Falcon Heights City Code is amended by adding Article II to provide as follows:

ARTICLE II. SOCIAL HOSTS

Sec. 30-40. Purpose and Findings.

The City Council intends to discourage underage possession and consumption of alcohol, even if done within the confines of a private residence, and intends to hold persons criminally responsible who host events or gatherings where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol regardless of whether the person hosting the event or gathering supplied the alcohol. The City Council finds:

- (a) Events and gatherings held on private or public property where alcohol is possessed or consumed by persons under the age of twenty-one are harmful to those persons and constitute a potential threat to public health requiring prevention or abatement.
- (b) Prohibiting underage consumption acts to protect underage persons, as well as the general public, from injuries related to alcohol consumption, such as alcohol overdose or alcohol-related traffic collisions.
- (c) Often, events or gatherings involving underage possession and consumption occur outside the presence of parents. However, there are times when the parent(s) is/are present and, condone the activity, and in some circumstances provide the alcohol.
- (d) Even though giving or furnishing alcohol to an underage person is a crime, it is difficult to prove, and an ordinance is necessary to help further combat underage consumption.
- (e) A deterrent effect will be created by holding a person criminally responsible for hosting an event or gathering where underage possession or consumption occurs.

Sec. 30-41. Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Alcohol means ethyl alcohol, hydrated oxide of ethyl, or spirits of wine, whiskey, rum, brandy, gin, or any other distilled spirits including dilutions and mixtures thereof from whatever source or by whatever process produced.

Alcoholic Beverage means alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, beer, and every liquid or solid containing alcohol, spirits, wine, or beer, and which contains one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume and which is fit for beverage purposes either alone or when diluted, mixed, or combined with other substances.

Event or Gathering means any group of three or more persons who have assembled or gathered together for a social occasion or other activity.

Host or Allow means to aid, conduct, entertain, organize, supervise, control, or permit a gathering or event.

Parent means any person having legal custody of a juvenile:

- (1) As natural, adoptive parent, or step-parent;
- (2) As a legal guardian; or
- (3) As a person to whom legal custody has been given by order of the court.

Person means any individual, partnership, co-partnership, corporation, or any association of one or more individuals. A person does not include any city, county, or state agency.

Residence, Premises or Public or Private Property means any home, yard, farm, field, land, apartment, condominium, hotel or motel room, or other dwelling unit, or a hall or meeting room, park, or any other place of assembly, whether occupied on a temporary or permanent basis, whether occupied as a dwelling or specifically for a party or other social function, and whether owned, leased, rented, or used with or without permission or compensation.

Underage Person is any individual under twenty-one (21) years of age.

Sec. 30-42. Prohibited Acts.

- (a) It is unlawful for any person(s) to host or allow an event or gathering at any residence, premises, or on any other private or public property where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present when the person knows that an underage person will or does (i) consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage; or (ii) possess any alcohol or alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it and the person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s).

(b) A person is criminally responsible for violating 30-42(a) above if the person intentionally aids, advises, hires, counsels, or conspires with or otherwise procures another to commit the prohibited act.

(c) A person who hosts an event or gathering does not have to be present at the event or gathering to be criminally responsible.

Sec. 30-43. Exceptions.

(a) This article does not apply to conduct solely between an underage person and his or her parents while present in the parent's household.

(b) This article does not apply to legally protected religious observances.

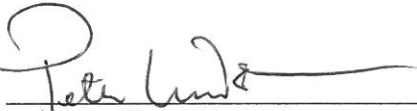
(c) This article does not apply to retail intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor licensees, municipal liquor stores, or bottle club permit holders who are regulated by Minn. Stat. §340A.503 Subd.1(a)(1).

(d) This article does not apply to situations where underage persons are lawfully in possession of alcohol or alcoholic beverages during the course and scope of employment, or where the underage person is performing an alcohol compliance check at the direction of a law enforcement agency.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication according to law.

ADOPTED this 24th day of April, 2010, by the City Council of the City of Falcon Heights, Minnesota.

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS

BY: 
Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Justin Miller, City Clerk/Administrator