

Legal Consequences

Civil Damages, Enforcement Policy and Criminal Penalties

Civil Damages

A person who supplies alcohol or drugs to a minor, or who allows alcohol or drugs to be used by a minor when he or she is in a position to prevent that use, may be liable for damages resulting from the minor's impairment and also may be arrested. For example, a person who supplies alcohol to minors or hosts a party where drinking is allowed could be assessed for significant damages if the minor, driving while impaired, should have a crash causing injury to himself or others or to property.

Enforcement Policy

With the heightened awareness of the problems created by underage individuals' use of alcohol and other drugs, authorities are not inclined to look the other way at offenses. For example, in some counties, zero tolerance is the policy. Where underage individuals are consuming alcohol at a party, all those in attendance, whether drinking or not, will be subject to civil citations.

Criminal Penalties – Tobacco

Retailers who sell tobacco products to people under 18 are subject to fines; as are persons who distribute to or buy tobacco products for minors. All states have laws that penalize minors for buying, possessing or using tobacco products with fines, community service or loss of driving licenses.

Criminal Penalties – Alcohol and Other Drugs

Following is a “snapshot” of the varying degrees of penalties that a person (1st, 2nd or 3rd time offender) may encounter in each state.

The legal laws are complex and ever changing. To read your state's most current laws, contact your District Attorney's Office.

The information on the following pages refers to personal-use offenses, for the most part. Manufacture, distribution and selling carry far higher penalties.

Under 21? Remember:

It is illegal to:

- Buy it
- Have it
- Use it

You are at risk:

- At home
- At a party
- In a car

ALABAMA

Other Drugs

- 1-10 years jail
- \$15,000 fine
- Possession: Class C felony

Marijuana

- Up to \$2,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Fake ID

- 3-6 months driver's license suspension
 - \$50-\$500 fine
 - Up to 3 months jail
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ALASKA

Purchase by Minor

- \$10,000 fine
- 1 year jail

Possession, Control, Consumption by Minor

- \$200-\$2,000 fine
- Up to 96 hours community service
- Up to 6 months driver's license suspension
- Substance abuse program
- 1 year probation, or until 21, whichever is longer

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

- 1-5 years jail
- \$10,000-\$50,000 fine

Fake ID

- Can be sued by retailer if they are fined
- 6 months to 1 year driver's license suspension

Other Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to 90 days jail
- \$1000 fine

Other Drugs

- Possession: Class C felony
- Up to \$50,000 fine
- Up to 2 years jail

ARIZONA

Fake ID

- Up to \$2,500 fine
- Up to 6 months jail
- Up to 2 years driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to 1.5 years jail
 - \$750-\$150,000 fine
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ARKANSAS

Purchase or Possession of Alcohol

- Up to \$500 fine
- Probation
- Community service
- Up to 6 months driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Other Drugs

- Possession: Class C felony

Fake ID

- Up to 12 months driver's license suspension
 - Up to \$1,000 fine
 - Up to 1 year jail
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CALIFORNIA

Purchase or Possession

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 48 hours community service
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Furnishing Alcohol to Minor

- Up to \$1,000 fine

- Up to 6 months jail
- Up to 24 hours community service
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 1 year jail, or
- Up to 10 days mandatory substance abuse program

Fake ID

- \$250-\$500 fine
 - 24-48 hours community service
 - Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
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COLORADO

Illegal Drugs

- Up to 18 months jail
- \$500-\$5,000 fine

Marijuana

- 15 days jail and/or \$100 fine

Fake ID

- 24 hours community service
 - 3-6 months driver's license suspension
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CONNECTICUT

Fake ID

- \$200-\$500 fine
 - Up to 30 days jail
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DELAWARE

Purchase or Possession

- \$100-\$1,000 fine
- Up to 60 days jail
- 30-180 days driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to 6 months jail
- Up to \$1,150 fine

Other Drugs

- Class A misdemeanor to Class B felony

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
 - Up to 60 days jail
 - 30-180 days driver's license suspension
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail
- Substance abuse program
- Community service

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 6 months jail

Other Drugs

- Up to \$500,000 fine
- Up to 30 years jail

Fake ID

- Up to \$300 fine
 - 90 days driver's license suspension
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FLORIDA

Purchase or Possession

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 60 days jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Up to 40 hours community service

Furnishing

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Up to 40 hours community service

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 60 days jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Up to 40 hours community service

Illegal drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Other Drugs

- Possession: 3rd degree felony
 - Up to \$5,000 fine
 - Up to 5 years jail
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GEORGIA

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 5 years jail
- Up to 12 months driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Probation to 1 year jail

Other Drugs

- Possession: felony
 - Up to 5 years jail
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HAWAII

Purchase or Possession

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- 180 days driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- 180 days driver's license suspension

Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor

- Up to \$2,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail
- Driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Other Drugs

- Up to \$50,000 fine
 - Up to 20 years jail
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IDAHO

Furnishing

- \$500-\$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
 - Up to 6 months jail
-

ILLINOIS

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$2,500 fine
- Up to 1 year jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- Up to \$2,500 fine
- Up to 1 year jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

INDIANA

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 60 days jail
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Fake ID

False statement of age or possession of a fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Selling, making, providing fake ID to minor

- Up to \$500 fine
 - Up to 60 days jail
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IOWA

Purchase or Possession

- \$200-\$500 fine
- Substance abuse program, or
- 1 year driver's license suspension
- Community service

Furnishing

- \$315-\$1,875 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Fake ID

- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
 - \$100 fine
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KANSAS

Purchase/Possession

- \$200-\$500 fine
- Up to 40 hours community service
- Substance abuse program
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- \$250 fine

LOUISIANA

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$100 fine
- Up to 6 months jail
- Up to 6 months driver's license suspension

Furnishing

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- Up to 180 days driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- Up to \$200 fine
- Up to 30 hours community service
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$500 fine
 - Up to 6 months jail
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MARYLAND

Furnishing

- Up to \$1,000 fine

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
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MAINE

Purchase/Possession

- \$200-\$400 fine

Fake ID

- \$200-\$400 fine

Furnishing

- At least \$500 fine
- Up to 364 days jail

MASSACHUSETTS

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$300 fine
- Up to 180 days driver's license suspension

Furnishing

- Up to \$2,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Fake ID

- Up to \$300 fine
 - Up to 180 days driver's license suspension
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MICHIGAN

Furnishing

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 60 days jail

If Drinking Leads to Death

- Felony
- Up to \$5,000 fine
- Up to 10 years jail

Fake ID

- Up to \$2,000 fine
 - Up to 1 year jail
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MINNESOTA

Purchase/Possession

- \$100 fine
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- \$100 fine
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- \$200 fine

MISSISSIPPI

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension
- Up to 30 hours community service

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension
- Up to 30 hours community service

Furnishing

- \$500-\$1,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- \$100-\$250 fine (for 1st offense if 30g [about one ounce] or less)
- Up to \$3,000 fine (felony charge)
- Up to 3 years jail (felony charge)

MISSOURI

Fake ID

- \$500 fine for each offense
- Up to 6 months jail
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension

MONTANA

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$300 fine
- Up to 30 days driver's license suspension
- Up to 20 hours community service

Fake ID

- Up to \$300 fine
- Up to 30 days driver's license suspension
- Up to 20 hours community service

NEBRASKA

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 3 months jail
- Driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$100 fine (1st offense)
- Up to \$200 fine (2nd offense)
- Up to 5 days jail (2nd offense)

NEVADA

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 6 months jail
- Community service

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$5,000 fine
- Up to 4 years jail

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Purchase/Possession

- \$300 Fine

Fake ID

- \$500 fine

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$2,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

NEW JERSEY

Furnishing

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 6 months jail
- Driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 6 months jail
- Substance abuse program

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 6 months jail

NEW MEXICO

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- 1 year probation
- Up to 1 year jail
- Community service
- Substance abuse program
- Addiction assessment

NEWYORK

Fake ID

- \$200 fine
- Up to 5 days jail

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$500 fine
- Up to 3 months jail

NORTH CAROLINA

Purchase/Possession

- \$250 minimum fine
- Up to 45 days jail
- Probation
- 25 hours community service
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Furnishing

- \$250 minimum fine
- Up to 45 days jail
- Probation
- 25 hours community service
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- Up to \$250 fine
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Up to 45 days jail
- Probation
- 25 hours community service

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$200 fine
- Up to 30 days jail

NORTH DAKOTA

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- Class B misdemeanor

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 30 days jail

OHIO

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 6 months jail

Illegal Drugs

- Up to \$250
- Up to 30 days jail

OKLAHOMA

Purchase/Possession

- Up to \$900 fine

- Up to 2 years driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- \$50 fine
- Driver's license suspension up until age 21

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Fine
- Up to 1 year jail

OREGON

Purchase/Possession

- \$250-\$360 fine
- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Substance abuse program
- Community service

Fake ID

- Up to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Addiction assessment
- Community service

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine

PENNSYLVANIA

Fake ID

- Up to \$500 fine

RHODE ISLAND

Purchase/Possession

- \$150-\$750
- Up to 60 days driver's license suspension
- Community service
- Substance abuse program

Fake ID

- \$150-\$750 fine
- Up to 60 days driver's license suspension
- Community service
- Substance abuse program

SOUTH CAROLINA

Fake ID

- \$50-\$100 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- Up to 90 days driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- \$100-\$200 fine
- Up to 30 days jail

SOUTH DAKOTA

Fake ID

- Up to \$200 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- 30 days to 1 year driver's license suspension
- Substance abuse program

TENNESSEE

Purchase/Possession

- \$50-\$200 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- Up to 20 hours community service
- Driver's license suspension

Fake ID

- \$50-\$200 fine
- Up to 30 days jail
- Up to 20 hours community service
- Driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

- Up to \$2,500 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

TEXAS

Purchase/Possession

- \$250-\$2,000 fine
- Up to 180 days jail
- Up to 180 days driver's license suspension
- 8-12 hours community service

Furnishing

- Up to \$4,000 fine
- Up to 1 year jail

Fake ID

- \$250-\$2,000 fine
 - Up to 180 days jail
 - Up to 180 days driver's license suspension
 - 8-12 hours community service
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UTAH

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
 - Up to 90 days driver's license suspension
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VERMONT

Fake ID

- \$300-\$500 fine
 - Up to 90 days driver's license suspension
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VIRGINIA

Fake ID

- \$500 minimum fine
- 50 hours minimum community service
- 6 months to 1 year community service
- Substance abuse program
- Addiction assessment

WASHINGTON

Fake ID

- Up to \$1,000 fine
- Up to 90 days jail
- 1-2 years driver's license suspension

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- \$250-\$500 fine
 - 90 days jail
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WEST VIRGINIA

Furnishing

- Up to \$250 fine
- Up to 10 days jail

Fake ID

- Up to \$50 fine
- Up to 3 days jail
- 1 year probation

Illegal Drugs

Marijuana

- Up to \$1,000 fine
 - Up to 6 months jail
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WISCONSIN

Fake ID

- \$300-\$1,250 fine
 - Up to 30 days jail
 - 30-90 days driver's license suspension
 - Community service
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WYOMING

Fake ID

- Up to \$750 fine
- Up to 6 months jail