

How can I tell if my drinking has become a problem?

- Are you drinking to forget your problems?
- Is consuming alcohol your only way to relax?
- Do you drink to be at ease with people?
- Do you drink when you get mad at your friends or parents?
- Are your grades slipping?
- Have you stopped doing activities that you enjoyed before?
- Do you drink in the morning before school or work?
- Do you ever lie about your drinking or hide the fact that you are drinking?
- Do you get in trouble when drinking?
- Have you tried to stop drinking or to drink less and failed?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions, you should take a serious look at what drinking is doing to you and the people around you.



Information & Support Services

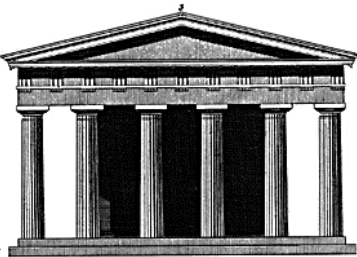
KU Watkins Health Center	864-9500
DCCCA Center	841-4138
Haskell Indian Nation Univ. Health	843-3750
First Step House	843-9262
Alpha Recovery Center	842-6300
Bert Nash Comm. Health	843-9192
Alcoholics Anonymous	842-0110
Narcotics Anonymous	749-6300
<u>City of Lawrence</u>	
Police Administration	830-7400
Prosecutor's Office	832-6195
Municipal Court	832-6190

Information & Support Services

Legal Consequences of UNDERAGE INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL



**City of Lawrence
Fall 2003**



Questions and Answers

If I am arrested for an alcohol violation in the City of Lawrence, what will happen to me in Municipal Court?

For minors under age 18:

- If you are convicted for even **transporting** an open container of alcohol, you can be fined up to \$200. After the second conviction, the judge can suspend your driver's license.
- If you are convicted for **operating** a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, you can be fined a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1000. You may be sentenced to a maximum of 10 days in a juvenile detention center, and you have to attend an alcohol rehab program.
- All other violations that involve alcohol and are committed by minors under age 18 are dealt with by the Juvenile Division of Douglas County District Court.

For minors age 18-21:

- If you are convicted for even **transporting** an open container of alcohol, you can be sentenced to a six month jail sentence, be fined up to \$200. After the second conviction, the judge can suspend your driver's license.
- If you are convicted for **possessing, purchasing or consuming** alcohol, you can be fined anywhere from \$300 to \$500, spend up to 30 days in jail, and be required to perform up to 40 hours of community service. You must attend an alcohol education program, and your license will be automatically suspended for 30 days.
- If you are convicted for using a **fake I.D.**, you can be fined \$300 to \$2,500, spend up to a year in jail and be required to perform up to 100 hours of community service.

- If you are convicted of **possessing** an open container or **consuming** alcohol in public, you can be fined from \$50 to \$500 and spend up to six months in jail.
- After the first conviction of **operating under the influence of alcohol**, you can be fined from \$500 to \$1000. You must serve a mandatory 48-hour minimum jail sentence and you must attend an alcohol program. Your license may be revoked.
- After the second conviction of **operating under the influence**, you can be fined a minimum of \$1000 and a max of \$1500. You must spend a minimum of 5 days in jail and you must attend an alcohol program.
- After the third conviction of **operating under the influence**, you can be fined from \$1500 up to \$2500 and you must spend at least 90 days in jail.
The third conviction is considered a felony.
- Conviction of an alcoholic beverage violation could make it **more difficult to get a job.**
- Alcohol convictions may be considered by **college officials and employers.**



UNDERAGE INVOLVEMENT WITH ALCOHOL



There are many ways for teenagers and young adults to have fun and enjoy being with their friends.

Unfortunately, some minors consider drinking to be an acceptable way to spend their time.

The City of Lawrence Legal Services Department and Police Department have put together this pamphlet of the most commonly asked questions about underage drinking and its consequences under city ordinances in an effort to let people know more about this important issue.

This information is provided as a public service to help prevent the illegal use and abuse of alcohol. The Legal Services Department or Police Department will be glad to answer your questions— call (785) 832- 6195.

Q: What is considered an alcoholic beverage?

A: Any alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage.

Q: What is considered alcoholic liquor?

A: Any alcohol spirits, wine or beer, or any liquid or solid containing alcohol, spirits, wine or beer.

Q: What is a cereal malt beverage?

A: Any liquor that is fermented but not distilled that is made from malt or a malt substitute. This does not include any liquor that is more than 3.2 % alcohol by weight.

Q: What restrictions are placed on purchasing alcoholic kegs?

A: According to the Keg Registration Act, Kansas state law requires retailers to register the keg numbers and the name, address and driver's license number of the buyer.



Who is a minor?

- The minimum age in Kansas for legally purchasing, possessing or consuming alcoholic beverage is **21 years of age**.
- Under the Kansas liquor laws, an "underage person" is any individual **under the age of 21**.
- **Persons under 21 years of age are also considered to be minors with regard to liquor law violations.**

Risks For Minors

- The only age group in the United States with a declining life expectancy is young adults between the ages of 15 and 24. The primary causes of death in this group are accidents, suicide and homicide -- all of these have a **direct relationship** with illegal use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Consumption of an alcoholic beverage need not occur for an arrest to be made and a citation issued to a minor; the **mere possession** of an alcoholic beverage is enough.
- Purchase, possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverage are all illegal for minors and are also all separate offenses under the law.
- A minor may be charged for even just making an alcoholic beverage available to another minor.
- A friend or relative over the age of 21 may be charged with violating the law if they **purchase, give, or knowingly make available** an alcoholic beverage to a minor.

The Law

- Since possession is an offense for a minor, a minor may be charged for having alcoholic beverage in his or her vehicle, **even if the containers are unopened and the minor has not been consuming any alcoholic beverage.**
- A minor may be issued a citation for possession of an alcoholic beverage **even on private property.**
- Police officers responding to a complaint at a home or apartment may, under some circumstances, **have the right to enter**. If they see any illegal activity, such as minors possessing or consuming alcohol, the officers may **detain** and/or **arrest** those involved.
- If **one** party in a moving vehicle is consuming alcohol, **anyone** in the vehicle may be charged.

- Anyone who knows or has reasonable cause to know that an open container is present and/or is being transported may be charged, **even if no one is drinking.**

False or Altered ID

- Reproducing, manufacturing, selling or offering for sale any identification document that has a fictitious name or other false information are all illegal interactions involving fake or altered IDs.
- Fake IDs can include – but are not limited to – drivers' licenses, nondrivers' identification cards, birth certificates, social security cards and employee identification cards.
- **Dealing in false identification documents is a felony.**

The Law

- A minor may be charged for **merely possessing** an ID other than his/her own.
- It is a **crime to borrow** a friend's or relative's ID and use it to purchase alcoholic beverage, and the person who allowed you to use his or her ID is **also guilty** of a crime.
- A minor who presents a false or altered ID in the attempt of purchasing an alcoholic beverage can be charged with **possession** of a false or altered ID and **also** charged with **attempting to purchase** alcoholic beverage.

