



Liquor Licensing Fact Sheet

Supplying alcohol to minors in a private home

The Victorian Government believes that parents should have greater control over their child's consumption of alcohol. The supply of alcohol to a minor in a private home without parental consent is prohibited by law.

Liquor Control Reform Amendment Act 2011

From 1 November 2011, the *Liquor Control Reform Amendment Act 2011* (the Act) makes it an offence under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* for a person to supply alcohol to a minor (a person under the age of 18 years) in a private home without the consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian.

Under these laws, a person who supplies alcohol to a minor without a parent or legal guardian's consent could be subject to the same penalty faced by licensees who supply alcohol to minors in licensed venues – a maximum fine of more than \$8,500.

These laws help to protect young people from alcohol-related harm, and help parents and legal guardians feel more assured when their children are visiting friends' houses that they are not drinking alcohol without their knowledge.

Why has the government introduced these laws?

Young people draw conclusions about alcohol-related social norms from what they see and hear about alcohol in their families and communities.

These laws ensure that parents and legal guardians are involved in the way in which their child is supplied with alcohol in a private home. This provides parents and legal guardians with

a greater opportunity to control the amount of alcohol consumed by their children, as well as allowing them to educate their children about the dangers of alcohol abuse.

How can a person obtain parental consent?

A person who intends to supply alcohol to a minor in their home should speak to the minor's parent or legal guardian. They need to be confident that permission has been provided.

A parent or legal guardian may give verbal or written consent for a person to supply alcohol to their child. If consent is not given and the person supplies alcohol, they will be committing an offence.

How will this law be enforced?

The law will be enforced where Victoria Police has evidence that it has been broken.

Why restrict the supply of alcohol to minors?

Research shows that some of the factors that contribute towards the risk of alcohol abuse include early exposure to alcohol and behavioural patterns of alcohol consumption by parents, grandparents and siblings.

Alcohol abuse during adolescence poses particular danger to brain faculties, such as the part of the brain responsible for self-control and reasoning. There is also a relationship between adolescent alcohol use and mental health problems, including depression, suicide and self-harm.

This publication avoids the use of legal language. Information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to the actual legislation. Authorised by the Victorian Government.