Alcohol - related offenses committed by minors
Alcoholic Beverage Code 106.071 and 106.115

Underage Drinking Laws

Minors who purchase, attempt to purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages, as well as minors who are intoxicated in public or misrepresent their age to obtain alcoholic beverages, face the following consequences

Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $500

Attend an alcohol awareness class

8 – 40 hours community service

30-180 days loss or denial of driver's license

If a minor is 17 years of age or older and the violation is the third offense, the offense is punishable by a fine of $250 to $2,000. Confinement in jail up to 180 days or both, as well as automatic license suspension.

A minor with previous alcohol-related convictions will have his or her driver's license suspended for one year if the minor does not attend alcohol awareness training that has been required by the Judge.

PENALTIES FOR PROVIDING ALCOHOL TO A MINOR

Adults and minors who give alcohol to a minor also face a stiff penalty. The punishment for making alcoholic beverages available to a minor is a Class A Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $4,000, confinement in jail for up to a year, or both. Additionally, the violator will have his or her driver's license suspended for 180 days.

Persons 21 or older (other than the parent or guardian) can be held liable for damages caused by intoxication of a minor under 18 if the adult knowingly provided alcoholic beverages to a minor or knowingly allowed the minor to be served or provided alcoholic beverages on the premises owned or leased by the adult.

ZERO TOLERANCE LAW

In Texas it is illegal for a person under 21 to operate a motor vehicle in a public place while having **ANY** detectable amount of alcohol in their system. On September 1, 2009, this law was expanded to include a watercraft in addition to motor vehicles.

The consequences for the minor on the first offense of driving under the influence of alcohol:

Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $500.

Attend an alcohol awareness class

20-40 hours community service

60 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 30 days.

A second offense increases the consequences to:

Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $500

Attend an alcohol awareness class at the Judge's discretion

40-60 hours community service

120 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 90 days.

A third offense is not eligible for deferred adjudication. The minors driver's license is suspended for 180 days and an occupational license by not be obtained for the entire suspension period. If the minor is 17 years of age or older, the fine increases to $500 - $2,000, confinement in jail up to 180 days, or both