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Oklahoma's Social Host Law Reminder and Holiday Safety

(Canadian and Grady Counties)–Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to inform and remind community members of the Statewide Social Host Law. Social Host provides stronger penalties for individuals who knowingly allow underage drinking in their homes or on their property. With the statewide social host law, all youth across the state of Oklahoma are better protected against the dangers of underage drinking. When alcohol is involved, as it often is this time of year, keeping in mind both the safety of yourself and others when traveling or hosting is especially important. It is equally important to know the law and keep safe.

The social host law provides a misdemeanor and fine of up to \$500 for the first violation and a fine of up to \$1,000 for a second. Further violations can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of \$2,500. If a violation of Cody's Law results in bodily injury or death, a social host will face a fine of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and up to five years of incarceration.

Julia Cochran, RPC Director, says that statistics from the 2016 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment in Canadian and Grady Counties show that friends and family remain the primary source of alcohol for underage drinking. Red Rock RPC urges parents and family members to be a part of their prevention efforts by not providing alcohol to the youth in their community.

What you can do to prevent social hosting/underage drinking:

- Talk to your child. Tell him or her directly and clearly that it is illegal and unacceptable to drink before age 21. Make sure you specifically mention the Social Host law, and its consequences to you and your child.
- Report underage drinking, parties,

or alcohol sales to minors. To report an underage drinking party in Grady County, call 405-224-TIPS

- Take preventive measures at events—holiday parties, and family gatherings.
- Make your expectations clear: to your child’s friends, their families, and your family.
- Support your local police department as they enforce this law.

The holidays usually provide many opportunities to celebrate with the ones we love. While having fun, drink responsibly and remember to keep safety and the law in mind. Cochran says that keeping youth safe from alcohol is everyone’s job.

Red Rock RPC takes a proactive approach in reducing substance abuse among communities, specifically underage drinking and the non-medical use of prescription drugs. They identify factors in a community that cause the risk of substance abuse and work to promote protective factors that serve to minimize the risk of substance abuse.



For more information on the Social Host Law or the RPC please contact Red Rock RPC at 405-422-8872, or visit the RPC website at www.redrockrpc.com.

Red Rock RPC is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), **SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)**, and **CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention)**.



OKLAHOMANS
WHO HOST
STAND TO **LOSE**
THE MOST

Don't give people under 21 a place to drink.