

**Parents,
Parties,
And the
Law**

State of Ohio Law

“No person shall buy beer for or furnish it to a person under the age of 21.”

Ohio State Supreme Court Ruling No 89-834

This ruling stems from a party that was given by the underage children of Harry Cordell, Sr. and Linda Cordell. The parents knew the children “probably would have some beer”. For this reason, the parents apparently instructed their children to invite their friends to spend the night. *The parents were out of town at the time of the party.*

A group of teens left the party drunk, an accident occurred and one of the teens was injured. His parents sued the Cordells, alleging that the parents negligently sponsored a party at which minors were allowed to consume alcohol and should be held liable.

On July 11, 1990, the Ohio State Supreme court ruled that parents who authorize a party at which underage persons become intoxicated are liable for injuries resulting from accidents in which the minors are involved. The ruling states that “the one who furnishes alcoholic beverages to an underage person may be held liable for injuries to a third person resulting from the wrongful conduct”.

“A parent may also be held responsible for failure to exercise reasonable control over the child when the parent knows, or should know, that injury to another is a probable consequence.”

“Finally, when parents know of the child’s wrong-doing and consent to it, direct it or sanction it, they may be held liable.”

None of us wants to end up in prison, financially bankrupt or attending one of our students’ funerals because of our own negligence! **Please don’t serve alcohol or drugs to minors!!!**