

Why Serving Alcohol to Minors can Ruin Your Life

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Last year, three teens were killed in a car accident after all three had consumed alcohol at an open house party. This year, things are changing everywhere as teenage alcohol consumption dips to a new low, according to the 2009 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.

Driver Nicholas Coady, 18, and passengers Connor Graver, 16, and Christopher Briglio, 18 were killed when their jeep slammed into a front-end loader last August on Cove Road in Stuart, Fla. Coady's blood-alcohol level was 0.251, Graver and Briglio were both impaired.

The boys were given an 18-pack of beer from an underage friend, drank some beer before driving to another party. The party was hosted by David Wayne "Bubba" Harper, 28, and Craig D. Frick, 24 who sold \$10 cups for a keg. Both have been charged with second-degree misdemeanor of having an open house party where alcohol was served to minors.

Penalties for Alcohol Consumption by Minors

The charge for having an open house party where alcohol was served to minors has a maximum penalty of 60 days in jail, six months' probation and a \$500 fine. If you have been charged with selling or serving alcohol to minors, it is important to have a [criminal defense attorney](#) on your side. Having a criminal defense lawyer will help you lessen your charges and avoid penalties that will follow you for the rest of your life.

As reported on [WPTV News](#), according to data published by the state [Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco](#), 94 percent of Treasure Coast retailers did not sell alcohol to minors during sting operations conducted in the last 12 months.

DUI Defense

The most important thing in DUI/DWI cases is early intervention by your [criminal defense lawyer](#). This proactive involvement will help you avoid the consequences of a conviction, which are very serious in Florida.

If you have submitted to a breathalyzer test and failed, that is not the end of your case. The Intoxilzer 5000 and Intoxilzer 8000 breathalyzer machines used to measure BAC in Florida have significant problems. If you have an expert witness and

an experienced [criminal defense attorney](#) who can challenge the accuracy of the machine in court, the BAC evidence may be thrown out. Criminal defense lawyers have obtained not-guilty verdicts due to machine failure for clients who have had blood alcohol levels of 0.229 and 0.227.

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