

CHAPTER 49

SOCIAL HOST

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49.01 PURPOSE; FINDINGS. The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public interest, welfare, health, and safety within the City of Clarion by prohibiting the services to and consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) at premises located in the City. The City Council finds that the occurrence of social gatherings at premises where alcoholic beverages are served to or consumed by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) is harmful to such persons themselves and a threat to public welfare, health, and safety. The City Council further finds that persons under the age of twenty-one (21) often obtain alcoholic beverages at such gatherings and that persons who are in control of such premises know or have reason to know of such service and/or consumption and will be more likely to ensure that alcoholic beverages are neither served or consumed by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) at these gatherings. Based on these findings, the City Council has deemed it necessary to enact the following regulations in the City of Clarion.

49.02 DEFINITIONS. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

1. “Alcoholic beverage” means any beverage containing more than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume including alcoholic liquor, wine, and beer.
2. “Emergency responders” means firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical service personnel, and other personnel having emergency response duties.
3. “Enforcement Services” means the salaries and benefits of emergency responders for the amount of time actually spent responding to or remaining at an event, gathering, or party and administrative costs attributable to the incident; the actual costs for medical treatment for any injured emergency responder, and the costs of repairing any damage to equipment or vehicles.
4. “Event, gathering, or party” means any group of three (3) or more persons who have assembled or gathered together for a social occasion or other activity where an underage person has consumed or possessed an alcoholic beverage.
5. “Parent” means any person having legal custody of a juvenile: a) as natural parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent; b) as a legal guardian; or c) as a person to whom legal custody has been given by order of the court.
6. “Person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, or any association of one or more individuals.
7. “Premises” means any home, yard, farm, field, land, apartment, condominium, hotel or motel room, or other dwelling unit, or a hall or meeting room, park, or any other place of assembly, public or private, whether occupied on a temporary or permanent basis, whether occupied as a dwelling or specifically for a

party or other social function, and whether owned, leased, rented, or used with or without permission or compensation.

8. “Social host” means any person who aids, conducts, allows, entertains, organizes, supervises, controls, or permits an event, gathering, or party. This includes, but is not limited to: a) the person(s) who owns, rents, leases, or otherwise has control of the premises where the event, gathering, or party takes place; b) the person(s) in charge of the premises; or c) the person(s) who organized the event. If the social host is a juvenile, then the parent(s) of that juvenile will be jointly and severally liable for any violation of this chapter.

9. “Underage person” means any individual under the age of twenty-one (21).

49.03 PROHIBITED ACTS. It is unlawful for any social host to host an event, gathering, or party on premises when the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person has consumed an alcoholic beverage, or possessed an alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it, and the person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent the possession or consumption by the underage person. A social host who hosts such an event, gathering, or party does not have to be present at the time the prohibited act occurs.

49.04 EXCEPTIONS. This chapter does not apply to conduct solely between an underage person and his or her parents while present in the parents’ household, to legally protected religious observances, and to situations where underage persons are lawfully in possession of alcoholic beverages during the course and scope of employment.

49.05 ENFORCEMENT. The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by officers of the police department. The police department shall have primary but not exclusive enforcement responsibility for this chapter.

49.06 VIOLATIONS. Violations of this chapter are declared to be municipal infractions pursuant to Chapter 4 of this Code of Ordinances. A five hundred dollar (\$500.00) civil penalty shall be imposed for a social host’s first offense. A seven hundred fifty dollar (\$750.00) civil penalty shall be imposed for a social host’s second offense. A one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) civil penalty shall be imposed for a social host’s third or subsequent offense. In addition, the City may seek reimbursement for enforcement services provided by emergency responders related to the event, gathering, or party. Multiple violations of this chapter may be considered by the City for purposes of approving licenses applied for by the social host, or for any other requirements that are subject to approval by the City.

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