

## PROVIDING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Furnishing alcohol to a minor (who is not your child) is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$4,000 and/or up to a year in jail. Plus six months driver's license suspension!

Providing alcohol to a minor at a gathering that involves binge drinking or coerced drinking will also result in community service and an alcohol awareness course.

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 alcohol to a minor or
- allowed the minor to be served or provided alcohol on the premises owned or leased by the adult.

## HAZING IS A CRIME

Hazing at or in connection with a high school or college/university is a crime.

Failing to report hazing is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 and/or 180 days in jail.

Engaging, soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding or permitting hazing to occur is punishable by a \$500-\$1,000 fine and/or 90-180 days in jail.

- Serious bodily injury? Penalty increases to \$1,000-\$5,000 fine and/or 180 days to one year in jail.
- A death? Penalty increases to \$5,000-\$10,000 fine and/or one to two years in jail.



Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission  
P.O. Box 13127, Austin, Texas 78711  
512-206-3333 (Information)  
1-888-THE-TABC (Report Violations)  
TDD/TTY: 711  
questions@tabc.state.tx.us  
www.tabc.state.tx.us  
@TexasABC on Twitter  
www.facebook.com/TexasABC

Learn more about alcohol poisoning!



www.awareawakealive.org  
@AwareAwakeAlive on Twitter  
www.facebook.com/awareawakealive  
info@awareawakealive.org

"We support a new amnesty policy for minors who call for help if a friend who's been drinking is in danger. It offers a common-sense approach to dealing with potentially life-threatening situations."  
*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – 1/20/10

"The TABC made the right decision... Texas' new Medical/ Good Samaritan Amnesty policy could help save lives."  
*San Antonio Express News* – 12/14/09

## 911 Lifeline Law: Know when to get help.

Save a life from  
alcohol poisoning.



# Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

## The Signs of Alcohol Poisoning

**M**ental confusion

**U**nresponsive

**S**eizures / Stupor

**T**hrowing up

**H**ypothermia – low body temp, cold / clammy skin

**E**rratic or slow breathing

**L**oss of consciousness

**P**ale or bluish skin color

### We all have a responsibility:

- Know the danger signals.
- Do not wait for all symptoms.
- Be aware that a person who has passed out may die.
- Call 911 and stay with the victim.

**Don't leave an unconscious person alone.**



### CARSON'S STORY

On December 2, 2008, native Austinite Carson Starkey died of alcohol poisoning following a fraternity hazing ritual at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Carson was 18 years old, finishing his first semester of college.

Carson was instructed to split a fifth of rum with another pledge, drink two 24-ounce Steel Reserve cans and a can of Sparks, while a bottle of Everclear was passed around. He lost consciousness, showing multiple signs of alcohol poisoning, but his fraternity brothers abandoned an attempt to seek help for fear of getting in trouble.

Ultimately, Carson's blood alcohol content at the time of death was between .39% and .447% -- over four times the legal limit for driving in Texas and California.

One call could have saved his life.

*With Carson*

## 911 Lifeline Law

A new law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011 means that a person under 21 won't be charged by the police for possessing or consuming alcohol if the person calls 911 because someone might have alcohol poisoning.

This limited immunity applies only to the first person to call for medical assistance, only if the caller remains on the scene until medical assistance arrives and cooperates with EMS and law enforcement.

**Don't be afraid to call 911!**

**Senate Bill 1331 by Kirk Watson** was based on TABC's Carson Starkey Amnesty Policy enacted in 2009. The policy was intended to encourage young people to do the right thing and save a life.

A 2006 study conducted at Cornell University (Lewis & Marchell) showed that a medical amnesty policy **dramatically increased the number of alcohol-related calls for assistance** to emergency services.