

What the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act means for under-18s

The law has changed. The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 replaced the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.

Some changes that affect under-18s:

From 18 December 2013, there are new laws for supplying alcohol to under-18s.

You cannot supply alcohol to someone under the age of 18 years unless:

- the person supplying the alcohol is the **parent or legal guardian** *and* the alcohol is supplied in a **responsible** manner, **or**
- the person supplying alcohol has the express consent of the young person's parent or legal guardian *and* the alcohol is supplied in a responsible manner.

You could be fined up to \$2,000 if you don't follow the law.

What does 'responsible' supply mean?

To supply alcohol to under-18s responsibly you should:

- supervise the consumption of alcohol
- provide food
- provide a choice of low-alcohol and/or non-alcoholic drinks
- ensure safe transport options are in place.

When deciding if alcohol is supplied responsibly you are required to consider:

- the nature of the occasion
- the time period over when the alcohol is supplied
- the strength and amount of alcohol supplied
- the age of the minor.

What does 'express consent' mean?

If you're supplying alcohol to an under-18 year old who is not your child, you'll need to ensure you have express consent from their parent or legal guardian before giving them alcohol.

Express consent may include a personal conversation, an email or a text message that you have good reason to believe is genuine.

Who is a guardian?

A person is only considered a minor's guardian if he or she is recognised as a guardian under the Care of Children Act 2004.

To find out more about the changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act go to:

- Justice.govt.nz/policy/sale-and-supply-of-alcohol
- Alcohol.org.nz/legislation-policy/sale-and-supply-alcohol-act-2012