



Panhandle Communities United For CHANGE

## **Change Starts With You**

*Know the facts about contributing to minors law*

### **Change happens when you no longer accept the norm:**

“A few drinks never hurt anybody.”

“I’ll just do it this one time. It’s a special occasion.”

“It’s no big deal.”

### **Change happens when you understand the law:**

According to Nebraska State Statute 53-180, contributing to the delinquency of a minor is a Class I misdemeanor. Providing alcohol to persons under the age of 21 is considered a violation of this statute.

### **Change happens when you know the consequences:**

A class I misdemeanor is the most severe misdemeanor charge in Nebraska. Being charged with this class of crime could result in a \$1,000 fine or up to one year in jail, or both.

Also, those who buy alcohol for a minor who then becomes intoxicated and injures or kills an innocent third party, otherwise, can be liable in a law suit. This could cost the purchaser or the procurer of the alcohol millions.

Beyond breaking the law, there are also the health and social risks to consider. **Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience:**

- School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades.
- Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities.
- Physical problems, such as hangovers or illnesses.
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity.
- Disruption of normal growth and sexual development.
- Physical and sexual assault.
- Higher risk for suicide and homicide.
- Alcohol-related car crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls and drowning.
- Memory problems.
- Abuse of other drugs.
- Changes in brain development that may have life-long effects.
- Death from alcohol poisoning.