

## Beer Keg Registration

### What is keg registration and how does it work?

Keg registration (or keg tagging) is a tool to identify and punish adults who buy beer kegs for underage youth.

### Keg registration policies stipulate that:

- Beer kegs are marked with unique identification numbers (using metal or plastic tags, stickers, invisible ink or engraving).
- When a store sells a keg, the keg identification number is recorded along with the purchaser's name, address, telephone number and driver's license number. These records must be kept for a specified length of time, usually six months to a year.
- When a beer keg from which underage youth drink alcohol is confiscated by police, the purchaser of the keg is identified and arrested or fined for supplying alcohol to underage persons.
- The keg deposit fee is forfeited if a keg is returned with an identification tag that is defaced or missing.
- Keg purchasers can also be required to sign a statement promising not to serve alcohol to underage individuals. This statement can be used as a tool to educate purchasers about their potential liability if they serve alcohol to underage people.
- Keg registration can be implemented voluntarily by a store, or required by a local ordinance or state law.

### Why keg registration is important for your community.

Beer kegs are often a main source of alcohol at teenage parties.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, kegs may encourage drinking greater quantities of beer, increasing the risk of driving under the influence of alcohol and other alcohol-related problems.

When police arrive at underage keg parties, people often scatter. Without keg tagging, there is no way to trace who purchased the keg.

Adults who illegally provide alcohol to underage youth may be deterred only if they believe they will face legal or financial consequences for providing alcohol to people under 21. Keg registration encourages adults to think twice before purchasing kegs and allowing underage youth to drink from them.

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Source:

1 Wagenaar, A.C., Finnegan, J.R., Wolfson, M., Anstine, P.S., Williams, C.L., Perry, C.L. Where and How Adolescents Obtain Alcoholic Beverages. *Public Health Reports*, 108(4):459-464, 1993.

2 Wagenaar AC, Harwood EM, Toomey TL, Denk CE, Zander KM. Public Opinion on Alcohol Policies in the United States: Results from a National survey. *Journal of Public Health Policy* , 21(3):303-27, 2000.