

# Cops say doctor let teens drink

Colonie doctor allegedly saw no harm with teens at keg party, police say

By [Bryan Fitzgerald](#)



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Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple speaks at a press conference at the Albany County Courthouse in Albany, N.Y. Feb. 1, 2012 to remind the public of the dangers in hosting underage drinking parties. ( Skip Dickstein/Times Union)

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On July 29, there were more than a dozen teenagers and a keg of beer in Dr. [George Stasior's](#) garage in Loudonville. According to court documents, the 51-year-old ophthalmologist didn't think there was much to worry about.

"Is there a problem?" Stasior asked Officer [J.E. Oliver](#), who came to Stasior's 20 Chestnut Hill Road home after police received a call about a group of minors drinking there, according to court documents.

"Yes, there is a problem," Oliver replied, the documents show. "You have a whole group of underage kids drinking alcohol and smoking weed in your garage and you are allowing it to happen in your home. You knew they were drinking the keg, correct?"

"Well, it is here in the backyard for the party," Stasior told police, according to the documents. "No one is driving. I made sure to take everyone's car keys and the 15-year-olds are staying over."

The teens were there for Stasior's son's 18th birthday party. Some ran off while a few stayed behind when police arrived. One girl was taken to the hospital for possible alcohol poisoning.

Stasior was charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. He was scheduled to appear in Colonie Town Court Wednesday night.

Stasior was not charged with violating the Social Host Law, a 2008 piece of county legislation that prohibits anyone from hosting a party where three or more minors are present and any alcohol is being unlawfully consumed by anyone underage.

District Attorney [David Soares](#) said cases similar to Stasior's are why Albany County enacted the Social Host Law three years ago. Hours before Stasior appeared in court, Soares, Sheriff [Craig Apple](#) and [Christopher Higgins](#), the county legislator who introduced the law, held a news conference at the county courthouse to remind people of the law and that violation and conviction of it is punishable by a \$500 fine and 15 days in jail.

The law is essentially an additional charge tacked on to the case of an adult accused of serving drinks to minors at home. They are typically charged with providing alcohol to minors, endangering the welfare of a child, or both. Higgins said a similar law was passed in Dutchess and Ulster counties. A statewide version has been under consideration in the state Legislature.

Soares said that along with prom and graduation weekends, Super Bowl weekend is one of the most frequent occasions for parties at which adults let underage people drink. Parents often negotiate with their kids and their kids' friends, agreeing to provide alcohol as long as there are designated drivers or no one drives home, Soares said.

"The case was shocking because he's a professional," Soares said of the charges against Stasior. "But it doesn't matter what you do, you'll be held accountable."

Stasior, who police said was intoxicated at the time of his arrest, allegedly told officers he had purchased the keg the day of the party for adults who had been there earlier. But his attorney, [Roy Nestler](#), said the alcohol consumed by the teens was not purchased by Stasior and that he didn't know anyone was drinking. Nestler would not comment on the statements his client allegedly made to police.

"It was happening unbeknownst to him," Nestler said. "George is not a partier. He's not in the business of providing alcohol to kids."

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