



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Dear Parents:

ASSISTANT
DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS

- JAMES P. MILLER
- DAVID G. WALLACE
- AMANDA M. CHAFEE
- TODD J. CASELLA
- MICHAEL D. MCCARTNEY
- JOHN C. TUNNEY
- JOAN D. MERRY
- MICHELLE A. COOKE
- PATRICK F. MCALLISTER

PARALEGALS

- VERONICA L. BERRY
- SHANA M. ROBERTSON
- JENNIFER M. DAMBOISE

INVESTIGATORS

- NOEL P. TERWILLIGER
- WALTER D. MACKNEY
- WILLIAM J. JONES
- MARK F. CLEVELAND
- DANIEL T. STUTZMAN

To begin, let me congratulate you, your family and especially your children as they are honored as the graduating high school class of 2016. It is a long road to graduation and everyone should be extremely proud that your child has achieved that milestone in his or her academic journey. While this achievement deserves great celebration, it is important to remember that prom and graduation celebrations must be conducted in a manner which is both safe and legal. There is an oft heard misperception that parents can throw a legal, and safe, drinking party for their child and underage friends. This is simply not accurate.

IT IS NEVER LEGAL FOR ANY ADULT TO PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD, EVEN WITH THE PERMISSION OF THAT CHILD'S PARENT.

Even if you don't provide alcohol, but merely provide a place for it to be consumed, you can be charged with a violation of **Steuben County's Social Host Law** which carries a \$250.00 fine and up to fifteen days in Steuben County Jail for a first offense. A host who actually provides alcohol to minors can be charged with **Unlawfully Dealing with a Child in the First Degree**, a class A misdemeanor, and the penalties for it include up to one year in jail, a three year term of probation and fines exceeding \$1,000.00 – per count. These are only the criminal sanctions which may be imposed. Civil liability may also exist for the consequences which result from providing alcohol or a place to consume it to underage persons.

If you, or your child, are contemplating a prom or graduation party with underage drinking, **please reconsider**. No one wants to be the parent who is awakened in the middle of the night to be informed that his or her child has been injured or killed in a drunk driving accident, or victimized at an underage party. And, no one wants to be the host of that party, the one who is held responsible both criminally and civilly for an underage drinking tragedy. **One night of revelry is not worth a lifetime of regret.**

This is a time of year for great anticipation and joy and the men and women of the District Attorney's Office and the Steuben County Task Force on Underage Drinking want everyone to be safe, happy and healthy so that we can celebrate the future accomplishments of our young adults. I wish everyone the best and hope you all have a great summer.

Very truly yours,

BROOKS T. BAKER
District Attorney