



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Dear Parents:

ASSISTANT
DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS

- JAMES P. MILLER
- DAVID G. WALLACE
- AMANDA M. CHAFEE
- MICHAEL D. MCCARTNEY
- JOSEPH G. PELYCH
- JOHN C. TUNNEY
- JOAN D. MERRY
- TIMOTHY J. ROSELL
- PETER J. GLANVILLE

PARALEGALS

- SHANA M. ROBERTSON
- JENNIFER M. DAMBOISE

INVESTIGATORS

- NOEL P. TERWILLIGER
- WALTER D. MACKNEY
- DANIEL T. STUTZMAN

To begin, congratulations to you, your family and, especially, your children as they become the graduating high school class of 2019. The road to graduation is long and you should be extremely proud that your child has achieved that milestone in life's journey. This accomplishment deserves great celebration. As you celebrate, **please remember that prom and graduation celebrations must be conducted in a manner that is both safe and legal.** There is a misconception that parents can legally and safely host a party where alcohol is served to their children and underage friends. That is simply wrong - no underage drinking event is ever safe or legal.

IT IS NEVER LEGAL TO PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD, EVEN WITH THE PERMISSION OF THAT CHILD'S PARENT. AND, THERE IS NO SAFE WAY TO THROW AN UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY.

Even if you do not provide the alcohol, but merely provide a place for it to be consumed you will be charged with a violation of **Steuben County's Social Host Law** which carries a \$250 fine and up to 15 days in jail for a first offense. A host or an adult who actually provides alcohol for such a party will be charged with **UNLAWFULLY DEALING WITH A CHILD IN THE FIRST DEGREE**, one count for each child at the party. This crime carries penalties including: up to one year in jail; a 3-year term of probation; and, fines exceeding \$1,000 per count/child. 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 featuring underage drinking, **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 – facing that guilt and being held responsible both criminally and civilly for an underage drinking tragedy. **One night of revelry, no matter how well intended, is not worth a lifetime of regret!**

This is a time of year for great anticipation, celebration and joy. 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 not only today's achievements of our young adults, but also the many their bright futures will bring. I wish everyone the best, and hope you all have a great celebration season and summer.

Very Truly Yours,

BROOKS T. BAKER

District Attorney