



## **Why Prom and Graduation Season?**

The annual prom/graduation season is a time of great excitement and celebration in the lives of our youth, however statistics show that this time of year also has a dark side. This time of year (April, May and June) is also the most dangerous time of year for teens. In fact, 1/3 of all alcohol related traffic crash deaths involving teens occur in these 3 months.

## **Why target parents?**

In the Kalamazoo County region, 65% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed indicated that they usually drink alcohol in their home (14%) or a friend's home (51%).

Many well meaning parents think that it is enough to take the keys away. Some think that drinking is a rite of passage on that follows prom and graduation rather than their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

## **What are the campaign goals?**

- It is illegal to host or allow teen drinking parties in your home.
- It is illegal for anyone under age 21 to drink.
- It is unsafe and illegal for teens to drink and drive.
- Parents can be prosecuted under the law.
- Everything associated with a violation, such as personal property, can be confiscated.

## **What are the laws in Michigan?**

In Michigan, hosts of parties at which a minor possesses or consumes alcohol are committing a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.

Anyone furnishing alcohol to minors (purchasing and giving it to them) is committing a misdemeanor of up to 60 days in jail, community service and a fine of up to \$1,000 for the first offense.

## **Can you be sued for allowing underage drinking to occur?**

Yes. You can lose your material possessions such as your house and cars if you provide alcohol to a minor. You risk everything that you own. You can be sued for the damages or deaths that result from underage drinking. The lawyers will say that it was an "accident" that you made possible.



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**269.388.4200**