

A MESSAGE OF CONCERN TO KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is illegal for persons under 21 years of age to possess or drink alcoholic beverages. Minors who do so can be charged with a criminal offense and face criminal penalties, including fines, court costs, probation, community service, jail time and suspension of their license for repeat offenses.

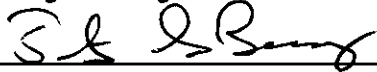
It is just as illegal to provide persons less than 21 years of age with alcohol or with a place to consume alcohol. Adults who do so also face criminal penalties. When a young person dies after consuming alcohol, the adult who provided it to him can face up to 10 years in prison.

Criminal violations are only part of the problem caused by underage drinking. Sadly, the younger people are when they begin to drink, the greater the chance that they will become alcoholics. Equally serious is the very real threat to human life from alcohol use. Binge drinking leads to alcohol poisoning and death. Drunk driving kills and maims people. Underage drinking affects thousands of innocent victims each year. These victims are your friends, your neighbors, your family members.

If you're not convinced yet that you need to do your share to prevent underage drinking, consider that you can also lose your material possessions, your house and cars, if you provide alcohol to a minor. You risk everything that you own. If a minor causes a crash, and you assisted them in obtaining alcohol or permitted them to drink it, you can be sued for the damages or deaths that result. After all, it was an "accident" that you made possible.

As your local law enforcement officials, we ask your support to help prevent more sad stories of young people dying before they've really had a chance to live. Please talk to your children before it's too late! Be part of the solution. Help to save their life and the lives of others.


CHIEF JEFF HEPLER
Village of Augusta


CHIEF TIMOTHY BOURGEOIS
Township of Kalamazoo


CHIEF DIANE COLES
Village of Richland


CHIEF MIKE DESCHENEAU
Village of Vicksburg


CHIEF RICHARD MAU
City of Galesburg


CHIEF WILLIAM BONGERS
City of Parchment


CHIEF ROBERT BROWN
Western Michigan Univ.


PROSECUTOR JEFF FINK
County of Kalamazoo


CHIEF JEFFREY HADLEY
City of Kalamazoo


CHIEF RICHARD WHITE
City of Portage


CHIEF BRYAN CAMPBELL
Village of Schoolcraft


SHERIFF RICHARD FULLER
County of Kalamazoo


CAPT. GREGORY A. KRUSENGA
Michigan State Police