

- Administration
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- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

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Dear

School proms and graduations are upon us. The problem of underage drinking becomes more prevalent at this time of year. Young people can be tempted to drink at after-prom parties and graduation celebrations, often with tragic results.

While we understand this is an exciting and liberating time for teenagers, we commend those who make the wise and mature decision to not participate in illegal and dangerous behavior. Parents and administrators have the best opportunity to influence decisions and attitudes. To help foster safe choices, they need to understand Ohio's underage drinking laws.

- Parents cannot give alcohol to children who are under 21, even in their own home with the other parents' permission. Those convicted of giving alcohol to a person under 21 years of age face maximum sentences of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Law enforcement can also confiscate any alcohol, money or property used in committing these offenses.
- It is illegal to share in the cost of purchasing alcoholic beverages, or to attempt to purchase alcohol, even if the sale is refused. The penalty for attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage is a maximum fine of \$250 and/or up to 30 days in jail. Anyone who purchases, sells or gives alcoholic beverages to under-aged individuals can be sent to jail.
- If you are under 21 years of age and are caught driving with a blood alcohol concentration between .02 percent and .08 percent, a level that can be reached after just one or two drinks, you can be arrested. Punishment is suspension of your driver license for at least 90 days up to a maximum of two years, plus four points added to your driving record. Having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle is also illegal.

We must continue to work together to stop the senseless tragedies associated with irresponsible and illegal underage alcohol consumption. If you have information about a bar, store or carryout selling beer and/or liquor to persons under the age of 21, please notify us by calling the department's toll-free hot line at 1-877-4MINORS. Ohio Investigative Unit agents will investigate every complaint. Together we can protect Ohio's young people and make this the safest prom and graduation season yet.

Sincerely,



Henry Guzmán, Director
Ohio Department of Public Safety

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."