Celebrate Without Alcohol!

SPRING & SUMMER BRING MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO CELEBRATE

LET YOUR TEEN KNOW YOU EXPECT THEM TO CELEBRATE WITHOUT ALCOHOL.

PARENTS, YOU HAVE A HUGE INFLUENCE ON YOUR TEEN'S CHOICES.

- LET YOUR TEENS KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT.
- UNDERAGE DRINKING IS HARMFUL. DON'T BUY INTO "EVERYONE'S DOING IT."
- MONITOR YOUR TEENS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES.
- YOUR CHILDREN WATCH YOUR BEHAVIOR, BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING YOUTH TO REMAIN ALCOHOL-FREE: WWW.CENTERFORPREVENTION.ORG

THE CENTER
FOR PREVENTION & COUNSELING

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST™
Don't be a party to teenage drinking.
It's against the law.

PARENT ADVICE
www.parentadvicenj.org

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

High school graduations are a time filled with pride and anticipation of bright futures. It truly is a reason to celebrate! We congratulate your child on their accomplishments. We also congratulate you as the support person who has helped your son or daughter reach this significant milestone.

We would also like to remind you that despite this remarkable achievement, your child continues to benefit from your guidance, and may need your support and monitoring to avoid risky situations involving alcohol during this time. Surveys show that parents are the number one factor influencing their children's decision on whether or not to drink. Please continue to have an open, honest dialogue with your teen regarding the risks of using alcohol and other drugs and be sure to send a clear, consistent "no use" message. Before your teen goes out, discuss his or her plans to stay safe and let them know that you will pick them up at any time, for any reason.

Lastly, at the same time we issue the above words of caution, there are also very serious criminal and civil sanctions as well as substantial legal penalties that can be brought against ***any*** individual who serves or makes alcohol available to persons under the legal drinking age of 21 years of age in New Jersey. We urge you to please take the time to read below!

- **Fact 1:** Penalties can be as great as fines of up to $1,000 and 180 days in jail per person served. Parents can be held civilly liable even if they are not present during the time of the party at their residence.
- **Fact 2:** If serving an underage person alcohol results in injury, the adult found responsible may be charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and subject to a fine of up to $15,000 and 5 years in state prison (NJSA 2C: 24-4).
- **Fact 3:** New Jersey law imposes civil liability on social hosts who serve alcohol to anyone under the legal drinking age of 21 who is subsequently involved in an incident causing injury or death.
- **Fact 4:** 22 of Sussex County's 24 municipalities have adopted the Underage Drinking Ordinance, (NJ statute 40:48-1.2) which empowers those municipalities to "enact an ordinance making it unlawful for any person under the legal age who, without legal authority, knowingly possesses or knowingly consumes an alcoholic beverage on private property." The penalty for underage drinking is a $250 fine for the first offense, $350 for any subsequent offense and the suspension or postponement of driving privileges for six months.

If you will be hosting a party for your graduate and his or her friends, we encourage you to visit the Center for Prevention and Counseling's website at www.centerforprevention.org for parent party tips that can help ensure a safe event. For more information on underage drinking prevention and treatment, contact the Center at (973) 383-4787.

Again, we want to offer our sincerest congratulations to you and your child while at the same time thanking you for your concern regarding this very important matter.

Sussex County Prosecutor Francis A. Koch

Andover Police Chief Danielson

Byram Police Chief Zabita

Franklin Police Chief Cugliari

Hamburg Police Sgt. Tangorra

Hardyston Police Chief Alemy

Hopatcong Police Chief Brennan

Becky Carlson, Executive Director, CFPC

New Jersey State Police Lt. Avenatti #5237

Newton Police Chief Richards

Ogdensburg Police Chief Gordon

Sparta Police Chief Spidaletto

Stanhope Police Chief Pittigher

Sussex County Sheriff Strada

Vernon Police Chief Young #43

Tina Aue, Director of Prevention Services, CFPC

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Middle school graduations are a time filled with pride and anticipation of bright futures. It truly is a reason to celebrate! We congratulate your child on their accomplishments. We also congratulate you as the support person who has helped your son or daughter reach this significant milestone.

We would also like to remind you that despite this remarkable achievement, your child continues to benefit from your guidance, and will need your support and monitoring to avoid risky situations involving alcohol during this time. During the transition from middle to high school, when teens experience more independence and opportunities, they are also at an increased risk for experimenting and using alcohol. Surveys show that parents are the number one factor influencing their children's decision on whether or not to drink. Please continue to have an open, honest dialogue with your teen regarding the risks of using alcohol and other drugs and be sure to send a clear, consistent "no use" message. Before your teen goes out, discuss his or her plans to stay safe and let them know that you will pick them up at any time, for any reason.

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