



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Celebrate Graduation Season Safely

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. – May 24, 2019- With graduation parties in full swing, we are reminding parents and adults that providing alcohol to an underage person at teen gatherings is illegal, unhealthy and unsafe.

Most youth in Eau Claire County report that their parents disapprove of teen drinking. The majority of adults also think that underage drinking is a serious problem. Yet many parents will still be asked and tempted to host underage drinking parties, believing that in doing so, they somehow keep their kids safe.

*Research shows otherwise. **Teens whose parents or friends’ parents provide alcohol for teens are much more likely to engage in heavier drinking, drink more often, and get into traffic accidents.***

Underage Drinking

- ✓ **Illegal**
- ✓ **Unhealthy**
- ✓ **Unsafe**

Underage drinking isn’t one of those “grey areas” of the law. It’s **against the law for adults to:**

- Provide, sell or give alcoholic beverages to any underage person who isn’t their child
- Allow underage drinking on premises owned by the adult or under the adult’s control
- Fail to take action to prevent underage drinking on premises owned by the adult or under the adult’s control.

The *Parents Who Host* campaign is a countywide effort aimed at supporting parents and other adults in keeping their kids safe, healthy and alcohol-free. It’s not just about avoiding a potential fine of \$452 or more. It’s about keeping our kids safe. “Alcohol is harmful to the brain and body of a growing teen, and the negative impacts can be long lasting,” says Lil Piñero. Academic and athletic performance can also be affected – more injuries, slower reaction time and difficulty learning and remembering



Parents can protect their teens and themselves from the risks of underage drinking by following these simple guidelines:

- Support safe, alcohol-free activities, and events for teens during prom, graduation season *and* year-round.
- Supervise any gatherings at your home when teens are present.
- Don’t provide alcohol to teens or allow drinking in your home or on your property.
- Don’t allow your teen’s friends to bring alcohol to your home.
- Report underage drinking.
- Talk with other parents and agree **NOT** to allow underage drinking in your home.

If you would like to post a yard sign for the campaign or learn about other ways to get involved, please contact Lil Piñero at 839-5091.

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