



Montague Area Public Schools

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Dear Muskegon County Parents,

As we transition to spring and summer, our local teenagers are presented with opportunities to gather and celebrate their accomplishments. Underage alcohol use may show up around prom, graduation parties, and class trips. We ask you would do your part in keeping area teens safe. We are part of a group of concerned community organizations coming together to encourage you to celebrate the accomplishments of local students while paying close attention to their safety. You can be held legally responsible for the actions of any underage drinking or drug use in your home.

In addition to potential civil liability, there are significant legal penalties for furnishing alcohol to minors or hosting an underage drinking party. These penalties are far overshadowed by the possible injury or loss of life that could be a result of minors consuming alcohol or using drugs. Underage drinking is strongly linked with changes in brain development, violence, self-harm, and accidental death. One in four fatal car crashes with teenagers involve an underage drunk driver. Alcohol poisoning and overdoses are a significant concern even for those teens who are not driving. Allowing minors to consume alcohol or other drugs as long as they are not allowed to drive is dangerous and comes with serious consequences. Furnishing alcohol or drugs related to an overdose also carries severe legal penalties.

Alcohol - Furnishing a Place for Consumption or Possession, MCL 436.1913(1), a 1-Year, \$1,000 Misdemeanor

Alcohol - Furnishing to a Minor (First Offense), MCL 436.1701(1), a 60-Day, \$1,000 Misdemeanor

Alcohol - Furnishing to a Minor Causing Death, MCL 436.1701(2), a 10-Year, \$5,000 Felony

What You Can Do

- Set clear rules and let your child know underage drinking is not acceptable
- Share your standards with family and your child's friends' parents
- Enforce the rules you set
- Make sure alcohol isn't available at teen parties in your home

Be a Positive Role Model

- If you drink yourself, drink responsibly
- Get help if you think you have an alcohol-related problem
- Do not give alcohol to your teens. Tell them any alcohol in your home is off limits to them and their friends
- Lock up any alcohol in your home

Support Your Teens and Give them Space to Grow

- Be involved in your teens' lives
- Encourage your teens' growing independence but set appropriate limits
- Know where your teens are, what they are doing, who they are with and who their friends are
- Don't let your teens attend parties where alcohol is served
- Help your teens get professional help if you're worried about their involvement with alcohol

We wish area teens success in their bright futures and commend the accomplishments of the past year. Please join us in promoting a safe and healthy season.

