

Dear Parents/Guardians:

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

However, to local law enforcement and the staff at the Center for Prevention and Counseling, this same period is filled with apprehension. Let's face it... the end of high school has always been a time for parties which many times are risk laden with alcohol and other drugs. Rarely does a spring go by where a teen alcohol related accident along with tragic and permanent consequences doesn't get our attention. This negative youth behavior is both alarming and sad; however, it is preventable.

You, as parents and guardians, possess an opinion most valued by your child. We appeal to you to talk with your graduate, and, working together, we believe this dialogue can create a happier and much safer time for all of our children.

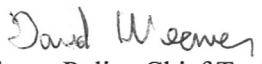
Lastly, at the same time we issue the above words of caution, there are also very serious criminal and civil sanctions as well as substantial legal penalties that can be brought against **any** individual who serves or makes alcohol available to persons under the legal drinking age of 21 years of age 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:** 20 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.

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. For more information on underage drinking, contact the Center for Prevention and Counseling at (973) 383-4787 or visit their website at www.centerforprevention.org.

Sincerely,

Sussex County Prosecutor David Weaver


David Weaver
Andover Police Chief Tagliatalata

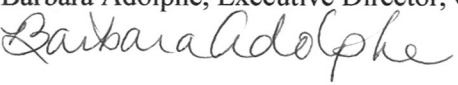

Raymond Rafferty
Byram Police Chief Rafferty


Raymond Rafferty
Franklin Police Chief Kistle


Jane Wright
Hamburg Police Chief Wright


Raymond Rafferty
Hardyston Police Chief Alemy


Jean Swanson
Hopatcong Police Chief Swanson

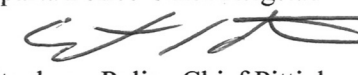

Barbara Adolphe, Executive Director, CFPC

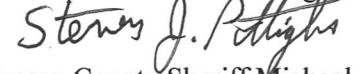
New Jersey State Police Lt. Robert Billings


Lt. Robert Billings
Newton Police Chief Richards


Varcadipane
Ogdensburg Police Chief Varcadipane


Reigstad
Sparta Police Chief Reigstad


Pittigher
Stanhope Police Chief Pittigher


Michael Strada
Sussex County Sheriff Michael Strada


Wherry
Vernon Police Chief Wherry


Becky Carlson, Assistant Director, CFPC