



OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
BROOKS T. BAKER

3 EAST PULTENEY SQUARE  
BATH, NEW YORK 14810

TELEPHONE: (607) 664-2270  
FACSIMILE: (607) 664-2159  
WWW.STEUBENCONY.ORG

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Dear Parents:

ASSISTANT  
DISTRICT  
ATTORNEYS

- JAMES P. MILLER
- DAVID G. WALLACE
- AMANDA M. CHAFEE
- TODD J. CASELLA
- MICHAEL D. MCCARTNEY
- JOHN C. TUNNEY
- JOAN D. MERRY
- MICHELLE A. COOKE
- PATRICK F. MCALLISTER
- JEREMIAH S. KING

PARALEGALS

- VERONICA L. BERRY
- SHANA M. ROBERTSON
- JENNIFER M. DAMBOISE

INVESTIGATORS

- NOEL P. TERWILLIGER
- WALTER D. MACKNEY
- WILLIAM J. JONES
- MARK F. CLEVELAND
- DANIEL T. STUTZMAN

To begin, congratulations to you; your family; and, especially your children as they are honored as the graduating high school class of 2017. The road to graduation is long and each of you should be extremely proud that your child has achieved this milestone in his or her academic journey. This achievement deserves great celebration, it is, however, important to **remember that prom and graduation celebrations must be conducted in a manner which is both safe and legal.** There is a misconception that parents can throw a legal and safe drinking party for their child and underage friends. This is simply not accurate.

**IT IS NEVER LEGAL FOR ANY ADULT TO PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD, EVEN WITH THE PERMISSION OF THAT CHILD'S PARENT. AND THERE IS NO SAFE WAY TO THROW AN UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY.**

Even if you do not provide the alcohol, but merely provide a place for it to be consumed, you can be charged with a violation of Steuben County's Social Host Law which carries a \$250.00 fine and up to fifteen days in Steuben County Jail for a first offense. A host or adult who actually provides alcohol to minors can be charged with UNLAWFULLY DEALING WITH A CHILD IN THE FIRST DEGREE, a crime, with penalties including up to one year in jail, a three year term of probation and fines exceeding \$1,000.00 – per count/child. These are only the criminal sanctions which may be imposed. Civil liability may also exist for the consequences which result from providing alcohol or a place to consume it to underage persons.

If you, or your child, are contemplating a prom or graduation party with underage drinking, **please reconsider.** No one wants to be the parent who is awakened in the middle of the night to be informed that his or her child has been injured or killed in a drunk driving accident, or victimized at an underage party. And, no one wants to be the host of that party – the one who is held responsible both criminally and civilly for an underage drinking tragedy. **One night of revelry is not worth a lifetime of regret!**

This is a time of year for great anticipation, celebration and joy. The men and women of the District Attorney's Office and the Steuben County Task Force on Underage Drinking want everyone to be safe, happy and healthy so that we can celebrate not only today's accomplishments of our young adults, but also the many their futures will bring. I wish everyone the best, and hope you all have a great summer.

Very truly yours,

  
BROOKS T. BAKER  
District Attorney