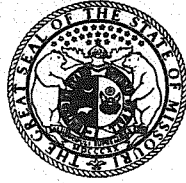


Office of the
Prosecuting Attorney
Ray County, Missouri

Danielle R. Rogers
Prosecuting Attorney

Sarah A. Hartley
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney



112 West North Main
P.O. Box 535
Richmond, Missouri 64085
(816) 776-2882 Telephone
(816) 776-6802 Facsimile

Re: Underage Drinking

Dear Parent:

I write you today to urge you to join me in acknowledging and vigorously enforcing the laws against underage drinking in Missouri. As you know, not only is the youthful offender subject to arrest, but adults providing alcohol also face criminal charges. Please join me and other Ray County parents in encouraging all adults to decline providing alcohol to minors, and to report underage drinking.

Being arrested and charged with providing alcohol to minors is bad enough. However, the charge may also result in public humiliation and may cost thousands in legal expenses. The charge may result in probation, jail time, or even a prison sentence.

If a young person is injured or dies because of the alcohol one provided, the potential civil liability is huge.

It is important to talk to your children about alcohol use, and to encourage them to wait until they are 21 years old before they consider drinking. Even more, it is imperative that you explain to your children that you are not willing to put your liberty and property at risk by providing alcohol to underage children.

Please understand that alcohol use by children and teens is NOT a harmless "rite of passage." The adolescent brain, as parents know all too well, cannot cope physically with the negative effects of alcohol. Studies show that half of those who started drinking before age 14 become clinical alcoholics, and drinking teenagers are seven times more likely to abuse illegal drugs.

It is a crime to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. I am writing you today because I am stunned to learn that in Ray County, over 54% of high school students say they can "easily" access alcohol, and over 23% of high school students say they have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. By stopping underage drinking we will improve the quality of life for our children and our community.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danielle R. Rogers".

Danielle R. Rogers
Prosecuting Attorney
Ray County