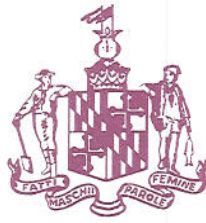


**JERRY F. BARNES**  
STATE'S ATTORNEY



**DAVID P. DAGGETT**  
CHIEF DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**MELISSA O. HOCKENSMITH**  
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**OFFICE OF STATE'S ATTORNEY  
FOR CARROLL COUNTY**

55 NORTH COURT STREET – SUITE 100  
P.O. BOX 606  
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND 21158-0606  
410-386-2671  
FAX: 410-876-9286      TT: 410-848-3017

**RE: Underage Alcohol Abuse**

Dear Parent(s):

Speaking as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer and your State's Attorney, I want to take this opportunity to relay the following message for your information/consideration.

In Carroll County and in other counties across the state and nation, we are currently experiencing an alarming rate of underage alcohol abuse. This unlawful and potentially lethal situation is, in many instances, condoned and/or tolerated wherein adults and parents provide the alcohol or a location for consumption.

I want to make it clear that the aforesaid conduct is unlawful and potentially deadly. We are experiencing too many tragic vehicular injuries and deaths as a direct result of underage alcohol consumption. The underage, unlawful alcohol consumption is clearly detrimental to our children, and far too often results in a tragedy affecting all segments of our community.

The following conduct is unlawful and will be vigorously prosecuted when sufficient evidence exists:

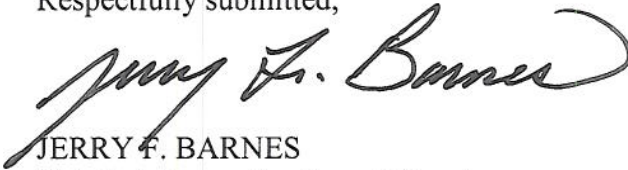
- 1) Contributing to a Child in Need of Assistance  
Penalty: 3 years/\$5,000
- 2) Reckless Endangerment  
Penalty: 5 years/\$5,000
- 3) Manslaughter  
Penalty: 10 years
- 4) Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor  
Penalty: \$2,500

Persons under the age of 21 caught consuming alcohol may be charged (again, when sufficient evidence exists) with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Automobile Manslaughter, Negligent Homicide by Motor Vehicle while Under the Influence of Alcohol, Being a Minor in Possession of Alcohol and can have their driver's license suspended by the Motor Vehicle Administration for having the slightest amount of alcohol in their system. These criminal offenses are in addition to the sanctions that may be imposed by the school system.

I hope that you view this message seriously to ensure the safety of all children and the public at large.

In conclusion, I urge anyone with information in regard to underage alcohol abuse or persons that are facilitating this unlawful conduct in any fashion to inform you local law enforcement agency or call our anonymous TIPS hotline, 410-386-2045 or 1-866-332-7363 (toll free).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry F. Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

JERRY F. BARNES  
State's Attorney for Carroll County

JFB:jlm