



Dear Alcohol Retailer:

Alcohol consumption by young people has a profound effect on our nation, our communities, our families, and our children. Alcohol use by teens is related to traffic crashes, crime, teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, suicides, and poor performance in school. **You can help improve these conditions by abiding by laws which prohibit selling or furnishing alcoholic liquor to persons less than 21 years of age.**

Evidence shows that retailers who follow the laws pertaining to the sale of alcohol, who have policies regarding the sale of alcohol, and who conduct educational programs for their staff limit the problems related to youth access to alcohol. A license holder carries the primary legal responsibility for the compliance with alcohol laws. Here are some steps you and your employees can take to reduce risks:

What can licensees do?

- Develop a written policy for alcohol sales and service
- Actively monitor staff compliance with the policy
- Reward staff for compliance with policy
- Train staff appropriately with recommended programs such as TIPS
- Make your establishment a low-risk environment

What can employees do?

- Always ask for ID when alcohol is requested
- Refuse alcohol sales when you are in doubt
- Protect yourself, know the Michigan alcohol laws
- Read your establishments alcohol policy
- Keep learning and stay informed

Over the next year we will be continuing our random alcohol “stings” throughout the county. On a quarterly basis, your store may be selected for a visit by an underage youth trying to illegally buy alcohol. Any employee who sells alcohol to one of our youth investigators is guilty of a misdemeanor and will be issued a citation. Please contact your local respective coordinators if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

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