



ELINOR Z. TAYLOR
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Drinking & Driving

Can Destroy Dreams



SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES

Think Before You Drink...

If you're under 21, you could lose your driver's license for any of the following offenses, even if you are not driving a vehicle at the time:

- misrepresenting your age to get alcohol
- using false ID to get alcohol;
- consumption, possession, transportation of alcohol.

The penalties are:

- 90-day mandatory driver's license suspension for first offense
- up to \$300 fine
- notification of parents.

If you don't drive yet, penalties begin when you apply for your driver's license.

If intoxicated while driving and you kill or seriously injure someone in an accident, you can be charged as an adult.

Keep Your Dreams Alive

Representative

Elinor Z. Taylor

156th Legislative District

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Phone: (610) 436-4433

"Celebrate to Live"

A Personal Message from
Rep. Elinor Z. Taylor
(R-156th Legislative District)

Dear Friend,

The days of youth that you now are experiencing represent a vibrant time filled with an array of challenges and beams of hope and promise for the future. It's a special time in your life and I urge you to enjoy it.



Unfortunately, however, these years sometimes are accompanied by a great deal of peer pressure to use alcohol and illegal drugs as a means of securing a "false" enjoyment. When these substances are introduced in celebrations and enjoyable activities of the teen years, disaster often results. Promising futures are snuffed out and many lives are permanently scarred.

As your state legislator, I want to open my heart to you with this message:

*"Enjoy this special time of your life,
but celebrate and enjoy responsibly.
Celebrate to Live!"*

I won't play games with you through this note of genuine concern. We all know that alcohol and drugs are used by many teenagers. And we know that such use is illegal.

With that said, I want to appeal to you as one person to another. My message is that you have not experienced enough in life to risk everything by using alcohol or drugs. Your future is a horizon that yearns to be explored and pursued.

Please consider the high risks of using alcohol or drugs. Realize the dangers that your actions pose to others. Please take a moment to look at yourself as a valued human being. Count your achievements, protect your potential and make the sensible choice to "Celebrate to Live."

**YOU ARE IMPORTANT, YOU ARE VALUED!
YOU ARE THE FUTURE – BE THERE!**

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elinor".

ELINOR Z. TAYLOR

FACTS ABOUT PA'S UNDERAGE DRINKING LAW

****The serious problem of underage drinking is addressed in Act No. 31 of 1988. The law is as follows:**

ANY MINOR WHO PURCHASES, CONSUMES, TRANSPORTS OR IS IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

- Faces a 90-day suspension of driver's license and up to \$300 fine.
- Faces up to \$500 fine/one-year suspension for second offenses.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The suspension would be imposed even if the violation had nothing to do with driving.

ANYONE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE CARRYING OR USING FALSE I.D. CARDS:

- Face a 90-day license suspension.
- Anyone 18 to 21 years of age are subject to fines up to \$300. Under 18 are subject to fines up to \$500.
- 2nd offenses are subject to fines up to \$500 (18 PA C.S. §6).
- Get possible imprisonment of up to 90 days.
- Face two year license suspension and additional jail time for third and subsequent conviction.

MINORS UNDER 16:

- Would not be able to obtain a driver's license for the same period (90 days) of time, which would not start until the minor acknowledges notice of violation to PennDOT, and are subject to the same fines.

****PA adopted a zero tolerance policy toward underage drinking and driving in Act 24 of 2003.**

The new law provides that:

- Anyone under 21 who drives with a blood alcohol content of .02% or higher is considered legally intoxicated and may be charged with driving under the influence.
- The mandatory punishment for first-time convicted offenders is not less than 48 hours in jail and 1 year suspension of driving privileges. A second offense carries a mandatory jail sentence of 30 days and a third offense carries a minimum jail time of 90 days and a fine up to \$10,000.
- All subsequent offenses require a 1 year licenses suspension and 1 year of ignition interlock.

REMEMBER:

- Manufacturing or selling a false I.D. Card has been made a criminal offense, punishable by minimum fines of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for subsequent offenses if you are under 18 yrs. If you are 18 or older, the fine is not less than \$1,000 for first offense and not less than \$2,500 for each subsequent offense.. Maximum penalties are \$5,000 in fines and two years in prison.
- Selling or furnishing alcohol to minors carries a minimum \$1,000 fine for a first offense and a \$2,500 fine for subsequent offenses. Additionally, you can be sentenced to one year in prison.

BE SAFE, OBEY THE LAW!