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NEWS RELEASE

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Parents: Don't Play a Part in Underage Parties

(Grand Junction, CO)- The Grand Junction Police Department and Mesa County Sheriff's Office are spreading the word that we will be stepping up enforcement of underage drinking parties during graduation; and parents who play a part in these parties will face charges. Parents need to know it is a crime to provide alcohol to people under the age of 21 and it is illegal to host or allow teen drinking parties. If parents break the law they could face up to $5000 in fines, face up to 18 months in jail, and they might also lose their driver's licenses. Also, if the parents supply alcohol to a child under 18 years old, the crime becomes a felony and is punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

If parents decide to host parties for graduates there are some simple steps they can take to stay out of trouble:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- Be at home when the party is going on
- Make sure alcohol is not brought into your home or onto your property by other people
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol to teens at their homes

Already this year we have seen a number of fatal accidents in our community involving young people who had been consuming alcohol. We want this graduation season to be one to remember because of the wonderful, positive experiences of the graduates, and we hope that parents will do their part to help make this happen.

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