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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Spring Means Increase in MIP Calls

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Spring is in the air. The flowers are blooming, the grass is green, and students everywhere are anticipating the end of school and the beginning of summer. With the warmer weather comes an increase in the number of calls we receive about criminal charges for minor in possession (MIP) of alcohol. Following are some things individuals under the age of 21 and their parents need to know.

Possession of alcohol can be as simple as being in a car that has alcoholic beverages inside. So long as an underage person has the alcohol within their dominion and control, they are considered to be in possession of it, even if they haven't had any to drink.

Michigan has a zero tolerance for blood alcohol content for underage individuals. True first-time offenders have the chance to "wipe the slate clean" by successfully completing a term of probation as ordered by the court. If probation is completed without any violations, the offender no longer has a public criminal record.

If a person has multiple convictions for minor in possession of alcohol and has previously failed to participate in court-ordered counseling or alcohol education classes, a court may sentence the offender to jail time for subsequent convictions.

The best way to avoid trouble in your family is to talk to your children about the severe consequences of an MIP charge and encourage them to avoid situations in which alcohol is present. Should you have any questions about a minor in possession charge or any other criminal charge, please feel free to give me a call.