



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM

838 Louisa St. Suite B • Lansing, MI 48911 • Phone (517) 887-5312 • Website: <http://www.ceicmhca.org>

Dear Alcohol Retailer:

Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham is one of sixteen coordinating agencies in the State of Michigan. We are responsible for overseeing Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment dollars and serve an eight county area in Mid-Michigan. The coordinating agency staff and its contracted provider network in the region are working together to address the problems surrounding underage alcohol consumption.

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, drownings, 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 services
- Actively monitor staff compliance with the policy
- Reward staff for compliance with policy
- Train staff
- 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 (see www.mi.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10570---,00.html)
- Read your establishment's alcohol policy
- Keep learning and stay informed

We are writing this letter to encourage you to reduce your risks and providing you with this *Alcohol Retailer Education Packet* in an effort to create safer communities. Please partner with us to reduce the costs of underage drinking.

Respectfully,

Joel Hoepfner
Provider Network Administrator