



Partners Responsible 4 Increasing Drug Education  
Risky Drinking Project at Windsor C-1 School District  
6208 Highway 61-67 \* Imperial, MO 63052  
636-464-4423 \* info@pridenow.org

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JEFFERSON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY’S OFFICE HAS FILED 18 HOSTING LAW VIOLATION CASES IN 8 MONTHS – FIRST EVER CASES HERE

4/6/09

IMPERIAL – P.R.I.D.E. members finally had the answer to two questions that bothered them since their project began: *Where are teenagers getting alcohol (homes and/or the house the party is at<sup>1</sup>) and do adults understand it is against the law for them to participate in the provision of alcohol to minors (yes<sup>2</sup>).* The next question, then, became *why would students so frequently report they are getting it from houses when adults understand it is against the law for this to happen?*

Members of the Law Enforcement and Justice Taskforce next explored what was happening with hosting law violations. It became clear to the new Special Operations Commander Lt. Scott Schumer and to Prosecuting Attorney Forrest Wegge that tickets weren’t being written and, most importantly, that the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office had not, to the best of their research, ever prosecuted such a case.

Prosecuting Attorney Forrest Wegge and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Heater set out to address the situation. Heater was assigned all minors and alcohol related cases, reviewing them for several issues including if he believed additional “source” investigation might yield evidence of violation of the State of Missouri Liquor Control Law Chapter 311, Section 311-310.2.

Since August, 2008, when Heater charged the first case in Jefferson County, a total of 18 hosting cases have been charged. The cases come from all across the county, and the defendants range in age from 17 – 52, with a median age of 27.

All involved have come to see that when it comes to underage drinking and preventing its terrible consequences, adults who choose to provide the setting in which underage drinking occurs need to be held accountable. Just one adult acting on their “just take the keys” attitude and allowing their home to be an alcohol-party place for minors can negatively impact the lives of dozens of young people.

**P.R.I.D.E. will be hosting a press conference at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2009 in the Conference Room at the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office to discuss hosting cases and the positive long-term impact we believe their prosecution will have on our county. Personnel from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, the Sheriff’s Department and P.R.I.D.E. will make comments, and be available to answer questions.**

For more information, contact Cindy Pharis, P.R.I.D.E. Programs Coordinator at 636-464-4423 or [cindy.pharis@pridenow.org](mailto:cindy.pharis@pridenow.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> Windsor Brief Middle School Survey, Spring 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Youth and Young Adult Risky Behaviors Survey, Fall 2007.