

Homecoming Horror for Students Who Don't Watch Out

The penalties will be stiff for underage drinkers

This weekend many students will be celebrating homecoming weekend, and often times that leads to an increase in underage drinking. In 2010, 28 percent of minors aged between 12 and 20 years of age admitted to having consumed alcohol in the past month, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "It starts out as a fun night filled with memories but one mistake and it turns into a legal and life changing nightmare for kids who have such a long future in front of them" said Thomas J. Carr, a criminal defense attorney and partner at Tully Rinckey PLLC. Students will face serious charges on purchasing and possession of alcohol, fake IDs and DWI's. Penalties will range anywhere from heavy fines, community service, attendance of alcohol awareness program, license suspension to jail-time. While New York has recently gotten tougher on underage drinkers, the state has imposed even stricter penalties on those of legal age. Students and alumni who are driving this weekend need to take special note if they are transporting friends who are minors. Leandra's Law requires up to four years imprisonment for adults who have been found driving drunk with a child under 16 years of age in the car. "Let's not forget another important factor. Behind your child's safety and future well being, parents can and often times are held liable for their child's actions. All parents need to take note of both the criminal and civil implications that can and will arise from bad decisions on homecoming weekend" said Mr. Carr. "If you or your child find yourselves in this predicament it's not the end of the world. A criminal defense attorney can often times use circumstances like age and lack of prior record to mitigate the consequences of those actions."