

TIPSY TAXI POLICY REGARDING UNDERAGE DRINKING

The highest priority of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office is to work toward enhancing the safety of every individual in the county. This includes residents and visitors, young and old.

Tipsy Taxi is a crime prevention program of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office. PCSO does NOT condone underage drinking (defined by Colorado statutes as the consumption of an alcoholic beverage by any person under 21 years old). However, we realize that despite our best efforts through education and enforcement, a young person in this county may still choose to drink. The problem would be compounded if that individual then chose to drive, to get in a car with a drunk driver, or to try to walk home in cold, snowy, or otherwise hazardous conditions. The dangers of drinking are more serious for young people because of their relative lack of experience.

Therefore, the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office wants nothing to stand in the way of a young person's asking us for help if he or she is the position of being intoxicated and having trouble getting home. We encourage a young person who may be in that situation to call the Sheriff's Office. We will make every reasonable effort to ensure his or her safety. Legal consequences for the young person will be dealt with at a later time, after he or she is sober. Parents or guardians will be involved.

If any taxi driver giving a young person a Tipsy Taxi ride is aware that the rider is under 21 years old, that driver must immediately contact the Sheriff's Office. We will make every reasonable effort to ensure the safety of that young person.

Pitkin County Sheriff's Office 2/18/2000

Deputy Ellen Anderson

Approved by Sheriff Braudis 2/17/2000

Approved by Debra Quinn, Assistant County Attorney 2/16/2000