



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2017

Contact: Kathy Waterbury, 601-923-7401

### **Cliff Torrence of Madison Pleads Guilty to 9 Violations**

Clinton, Miss. - On January 17, 2017, Oley Cliff Torrence pleaded guilty to the Madison County Court to eight violations of the Social Host law and one violation of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

This guilty plea was in response to a party that Torrence held on July 19, 2014, at his Flora residence, 317 Highland Meadow Road. After receiving a tip, law enforcement visited the residence where they found Mr. Torrence hosting a party for minors where beer, alcohol and drugs were prevalent.

Upon accepting the guilty plea, the court ordered that Torrence:

- Serve 30 days of time (all nine sentences run concurrent with each other);
- Pay the maximum fine of \$1,000 on each of the nine accounts for a total of \$9,000;
- Pay the cost of investigation fee of \$500 to all three agencies involved, equaling \$1,500;
- Receive two years' probation;
- Pay court costs.

Rusty Hanna, Chief of ABC Enforcement, stated, "Statistics show that minors often get alcohol from family members and friends who don't think there is anything wrong with underage drinking. They don't think about the many unintended consequences that occur, often injury or death. The ABC is dedicated to protecting our youth and will aggressively investigate all information involving Social Host violations."

The Social Host law was enacted in 2011 making it unlawful for an adult to knowingly allow minors to possess and consume alcoholic beverages on his or her property. The law provides that a person convicted of the Social Host law shall be punished by a fine of \$1000 or by 90 days in county jail, or both at the discretion of the court, for each count.