



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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— DEPARTMENT OF —
REVENUE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Contact: Kathy Waterbury (601) 923-7401
kathy.waterbury@dor.ms.gov

Carrigan Laine Arban, age 16 of Purvis, Reagan Elisabeth Woolbright, age 16 of Oak Grove, and Justin Tyler Kelly, age 17 of Purvis, died from injuries sustained in a traffic accident on Purvis-Oloh Road, September 25, 2014. Prior to the accident, all three attended a party at the home of Kristi Morris. The fatal crash happened as the three traveled home from the Morris residence.

The Mississippi Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Enforcement, assisted by the Lamar County Sheriff's Department, conducted the investigation focusing on the activities of these three young people prior to the accident leading to the arrest of Morris on December 17, 2014. The investigation discovered that Morris furnished beer/light wine to these and other minors at her residence and allowed them to consume it there.

On March 22, 2016, Kristi Morris, age 42, of 32 Morris Drive, Purvis, Mississippi entered a guilty plea to three (3) counts of violating the Social Host Law, three (3) counts of furnishing beer/light wine to a person under twenty-one (21), and one (1) count of possession of beer/light wine in a dry county.

Special Judge Michael Ward sentenced Morris to:

3-Counts Social Host:

90 days County Jail each count which will run concurrently
\$1500 fine of which \$1000 suspended

3-Counts Providing Beer to Minor:

\$600 fine of which \$400 suspended

1-Count Possession of Beer in Dry County

90 days County Jail to run consecutive
\$500 fine which was suspended.

Rusty Hanna, Chief of ABC Enforcement, said "this criminal investigation began a year and half ago with the death of three young people and concluded today with sentencing of Kristi Morris. I hope that other adults will stop and think before allowing minors to consume alcohol. While we can't turn back the clock on what happened that night, it is our hope to prevent it from happening again. The ABC takes its duty to protect young people from dangers of alcohol very seriously, and we will diligently pursue those who violate the Social Host law."

The Social Host law was enacted on July 1, 2011 and makes it unlawful for an adult to knowingly allow minors to possess and consume alcoholic beverages on his or her property.