



► En Español ► Search

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Publications](#) [Forms](#) [Employment](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQ](#) [Public Inquiry](#)
[Press Releases](#) [Mission and Vision](#) [Commission Meetings](#) [Site Map](#)

You are in: [Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2009](#) > [Press Release](#)

- [Complain About a Location that Sells Alcohol](#)
- [Laws, Rules and Regulations](#)
- [Enforcement Efforts](#)
- [Marketing Practices](#)
- [Licensing](#)
- [Credit Law / Delinquent List](#)
- [Excise Taxes](#)
- [Label / Product Approval](#)
- [Seller Training / TABC Certification](#)
- [Personal Importation / Ports of Entry](#)
- [Education / Prevention Programs](#)
- [Grants / Funding](#)
- [Public Information / Open Records Requests](#)
- [Local Option Elections / Wet-Dry Areas](#)
- [External Links](#)
- [Doing Business with TABC](#)
- [Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse 1-800-TX-AUDIT](#)

- [Press Releases](#)
- [Mission and Vision](#)
- [Commission Meetings](#)
- [Site Map](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 2, 2009

TABC Announces Amnesty Policy / Asks Public to Remember Carson Starkey

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) has established a new Medical / Good Samaritan Amnesty policy in an attempt to prevent future deaths from alcohol poisoning.

"It is the policy of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission that our agents will not cite minors for the illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages if an individual seeks assistance because of a medical emergency or because a person has been a victim of sexual assault or other violent crime."

TABC Administrator Alan Steen says, "It is our hope that publicizing this policy will encourage young people to call 911 if a friend is in danger from alcohol poisoning or any other medical emergency. We don't want any life to be lost because someone is afraid of getting in trouble for underage drinking. For that reason, I encourage other law enforcement agencies to establish similar policies."

TABC makes this announcement today, December 2, 2009, in remembrance of Austinite Carson Starkey. Today is the one-year anniversary of Carson's death from alcohol poisoning following a fraternity hazing ritual at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, California. Carson was 18-years-old, a recent graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, finishing his first semester of college. According to the police investigation, he was instructed to drink a bottle of Everclear. He lost consciousness, showing multiple signs of alcohol poisoning, but his fraternity brothers didn't seek help until it was too late. Ultimately, his blood alcohol content at the time of death was between .39% and .447% -- over four times the legal limit for driving in Texas and California.

Steen continued, "Know the signs of alcohol poisoning. For a young person, nothing could be worse than living with the memory of a friend who died because you were afraid to make a phone call. I urge young people to be a good friend. Don't leave an unconscious person alone, and don't be

afraid to call 911."

Signs of Alcohol Poisoning:

- Person cannot be roused / unconscious
- Person appears confused or in a stupor
- No response to pinching the skin
- Vomiting while sleeping
- Seizures
- Slow breathing (fewer than 8 breaths per minute)
- Irregular breathing (10 seconds or more between breaths)
- Low body temperature (hypothermia), bluish skin color, paleness

Don't wait for all of these symptoms to be present before you seek help!

Carson Starkey was born in Austin, Texas on April 17, 1990, and he was a third generation graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School in Austin, Texas. For more information on Carson's life, and the non-profit association created in his name, visit www.withcarson.com.

For more information on the signs of alcohol poisoning, or to download an information flier, please visit TABC's website: <http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/education/pdfs/alcoholPoisoning.pdf>

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Last Updated Wednesday, December 2, 2009