



Cobb county mother sentenced to jail in teen alcohol trial

By Atlanta Northside Stay-at-Home Moms

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August 6, 9:06 AM

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Teenage drinking is troublesome

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Kecia Whitfield, 44 a Cobb county mother has been sentenced to 18 months of jail after being found guilty for providing alcohol to minors. She is to complete 100 hours of community service and pay a \$1,300 fine.

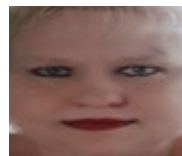
The [death of a teenager](#) resulted from alcohol purchased and given to Whitfield's [stepson](#) in January 2009, which ended up in the hands of the teen. He was a star athlete and well liked by everyone, including teachers and coaches. His car lost control as he was [driving at high speed](#) and struck another car injuring a man. The teenager was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. The [toxicology report](#) after the boy's death indicated that his blood alcohol level was .13 at the time of the accident. The legal limit for blood alcohol is 0.08 in the state of Georgia.

This sad story brings a lot of topics to a head with [teenage drinking](#) being troublesome and the laws that allow parents to let their teens drink but the legal drinking age is 21 years old. If the law was amended and there was not an allowance from parents to let their own child drink this could save a lot of lives. It is against the law for a parent to give alcohol to any other person under the age of 21 or to knowingly host a party where alcohol is served. Parents have to be alert and diligent in protecting their own children and the lives of others that are around them. There are many safety implications with teenage drinking, for

example [drunk driving](#), dangerous behavior and other factors that can affect a teenager's life.

Parents should learn to [talk to teenagers about drinking](#) and the repercussions and dangers. Studies show that drinking can occur as early as 11 years old in some kids. This is alarming and proves that more stringent education needs to be given by families to teach kids to make the right choices. The sooner parents start talking to kids about pressures and influences in their lives as they grow older the [better chance](#) parents have of keeping them out of harms way.

Parents should protect themselves by following the law so they don't end up like this Cobb county mother sentenced to jail. Even unknowingly, a parent can be responsible for behavior and tragedy they had no intention of being a part in, and end up changing their lives and the lives of others forever.



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