

## Stay Safe and Arrive Alive

[THIS IS A REAL STORY]

She was eighteen. It was her senior year, and she was going to become a professional dancer. She had been taking dance classes since the day she could walk. Her friends and family told her that she was going to go far, and she would have. She made one wrong decision that changed her life, forever.

On Saturday, December 5th, 2008, Sarah was rushed to Boston, and put on life support at the Massachusetts General Hospital after she was in a fiery car crash. The cause of the crash was unknown until doctors took a look at her blood work and found out that her alcohol blood level was over the legal limit. She was driving underaged, and under the influence. Earlier that night, Sarah and other underaged teenagers were supplied with alcohol at a party, her birthday party, by a friend who was twenty-three. Several people at the party, trying to be “safe” with alcohol, made a key bucket for people to put their keys into so they would not leave the party while under the influence, although that was not the case for Sarah. Sarah kept requesting her keys so she could go home. Even though they knew she was drunk, they irresponsibly gave her her keys. Not even ten minutes after leaving the party, she ran into a pole, flipping the over, trapping her in the burning car. In a sick sense of luck, she crashed less than a block away from the police station. Unfortunately, she received fourth degree burns on her body, which led to the removal of her two feet and parts of her arms. After six months of rehabilitation, she returned to school and graduated. The supplier of the alcohol was sentenced to a year in jail.

She may have made it through this horrible experience, but her life has changed forever. She will never be able to become a dancer like she wanted to, because of the actions she made. The supplier of alcohol did not keep her safe when he gave her alcohol. Her friends did not keep her safe by giving her her car keys knowing she was drunk that night. She did not keep herself safe by drinking. We can all learn something from this: that if we want to stay safe and arrive alive, alcohol should not be in our lives.

\* Sarah is not the real name of the girl in this essay

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