



Off-Campus Housing &  
Neighborhood Relations

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



**PARTY**   
**SMART** guide

# AVOID TICKETS

## How to handle a police visit

If the police show up at your front door during a party, the best thing to do is stay calm and cooperate. As the host, take responsibility by stepping outside to discuss the situation with the police officers. It's okay to ask the officers questions, but make sure you stay calm and show them respect. It is possible they will just give you a warning and an opportunity to shut the party down on your own. If it's helpful, you can ask them for assistance in shutting down the party.

Police officers have a responsibility to enforce the law. If you refuse to answer the door or try to hide from the police when they come to your house, they will likely come back the next day and issue you a ticket. If you answer the door and are uncooperative, they may be inclined to issue you more than one ticket. And remember, your attitude is always noted on the ticket.

## CU's Code of Conduct

Even if you get in trouble off campus, CU still has the ability to impose sanctions based upon your behavior. The CU Student Code of Conduct applies to all students, regardless of where you live or where the offense occurred. The Code of Conduct deals with very broad issues of behavior, including ethnic, gender, or racial intimidation, failure to comply with university rules or regulations, as well as criminal violations. Not only can you land in court for your behavior at a party, but you may also face sanctions from CU, including possible suspension.

BAC	Effects on the Drinker
.02 to .04%	Lightheadedness, loss of shyness, slight euphoria
.05 to .07%	Buzzed, euphoria, minor impairment of reasoning, DWAI
.08 to .10%	Legal impairment, impairment of judgment and reaction time, DUI
.11 to .15%	Drunk, perception impairment, loss of gross motor skills
.16 to .19%	Very drunk, dizzy, blurred vision
.20 to .24%	Dazed, confused, no perception of time, can't walk on their own

# Alcohol

It is illegal to possess or consume alcohol if you are under the age of 21. It is also illegal in Colorado to provide alcohol to anyone underage. Penalties for serving underage individuals can include fines up to \$1,000, court appearances and court costs, jail up to 90 days, and sanctions from CU Student Conduct. Additionally, it is a felony to serve alcohol to a minor. Only invite people you know to your parties, and always check IDs.

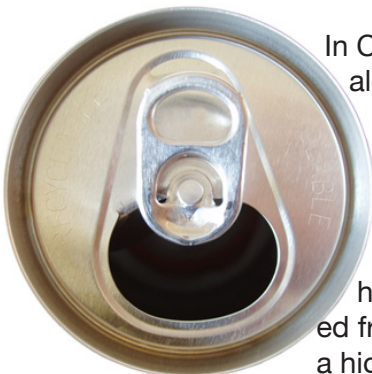
# Kegs

The best way to avoid trouble with a keg is to keep it inside your house. Retailers in Boulder have agreed to tag all purchased kegs with an ID number so that it can be traceable. Purchasers will be held responsible for any liquor infractions, such as providing alcohol to minors.

# Liability

When hosting a party, you are liable for any damage to your rental property caused by guests and/or any ordinance violations. If you serve alcohol to an intoxicated person, or a person who is underage, you could be held liable if they get in an accident or damage a neighbor's property.

# YOUR CONSUMPTION



In Colorado you are considered to be impaired and it is illegal to drive if your blood alcohol content (BAC) is .05% (.02% if you are under 21). If your BAC is .08% or higher, you are considered to be intoxicated. "BAC" is a form of measurement used to determine the concentration of alcohol in your bloodstream and is one factor used to assess the level of an individual's intoxication. However, there are several other factors that contribute to a person's level of intoxication, such as body type, the quantity and rate of consumption, your metabolism, and even how much sleep you have had. It is important to be aware that alcohol is eliminated from your body much more slowly than it is absorbed, so it is easy to accumulate a high BAC in a short period of time. Be aware of how much and how quickly you are drinking – you don't want to wind up on the wrong end of a breathalyzer.

# That's a Nuisance...

If you host or refuse to leave a party that is a nuisance to the neighborhood, you and your roommates can be subject to a nuisance party ticket. A nuisance party is a gathering of two or more people where there is a violation of one or more municipal ordinances, including any noise or alcohol/keg violations, urinating in public, littering, trespassing, etc. Consequences include fines up to \$1,000, jail up to 90 days, mandatory court appearance, review by CU Student Conduct, court fees, community service, liability for property and personal injury damages, and suspension from CU after two alcohol-related violations. It doesn't take a lot to get a nuisance party ticket, so keep people inside and keep the noise down.



## Register

Avoid nuisance party tickets by registering your Friday or Saturday night party with Off-Campus Housing & Neighborhood Relations. Stop by the UMC, room 313, and provide the office with your student ID, two phone numbers, and the address of your party. (You must live at the address being registered.) Parties must be registered by noon on Friday. Your information is then passed on to Boulder dispatch. If a noise complaint is made on your house the night of the party, dispatch will call and give you a warning. You will then have 20 minutes to shut the party down. You will likely avoid police contact unless a second complaint is made. If you fail to shut down the party, Boulder police will stop by and issue tickets.

**During the 2014-2015 academic year, we registered 404 parties!**

Unlike a nuisance party ticket, registration is FREE. You don't want the cops to stop by, so limit your chance of that happening. Here's the fine print: Regardless of Party Registration, you are still responsible for obeying city laws. Party Registration is for noise complaints only and does not protect you or your guests against any other violation. Parties in a common areas (ex: apartment courtyards) cannot be registered. All amplified music, including bands and DJs, must be inside the house. Houses that receive two consecutive warnings from dispatch will lose party registration privileges for 4 months.

## Forget Fireworks

The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks in Boulder are prohibited. This provision includes firecrackers, sparklers, snaps, bottle rockets, Roman candles, and smoke bombs. You may also be held responsible for fireworks used by roommates and guests. If you get caught with fireworks, possible penalties include fines up to \$1,000, possible jail time, court fees, possible arson charges and personal injury damages, as well as review by CU Student Conduct.

## Most Common Complaints

The most likely reason for your neighbors to complain is because of noise. Oftentimes individuals don't realize how far noise will travel. Give your neighbors your phone number and tell them they can call you if there is an issue. Don't forget that your neighbors aren't just to your right and left, but across the street and behind your house, as well.

### Disruption of Quiet Enjoyment of the Home

At any time of day, loud or unruly conduct that disrupts another person in his or her home is subject to a ticket.

### Unreasonable Noise

After 11pm in a residential neighborhood any music, conversation, or other noise that can be heard from more than 100ft away from your house could result in a noise ticket.

# SMART PARTY TIPS



1. Let your neighbors know you intend to have a party and give them your phone number. It's both polite and smart to let your neighbors know they can call you, rather than the police, if they have a concern about your party.

2. Designate a non-drinking party host to keep an eye out. Ask a roommate or friend to stay sober and keep tabs on noise, limit access at the door, and keep the party from getting out of control.

3. Keep the noise down and consider registering your party. The number one reason police are called to a party is because of noise. Keep people inside and windows closed.

4. Kegs attract police attention. The best place for a keg is inside the house. It is illegal in Boulder to have a keg on your front porch or in your yard.

5. Always provide food and non-alcoholic drinks. You can be ticketed and sanctioned by CU Student Conduct if underage people are drinking at your party. Have alternative beverages.

6. Know your guests. You are legally responsible for the actions of everyone at the party. If somebody leaves your party drunk and causes a death or injury, you can be held accountable.

7. Keep the party to a reasonable size. "Reasonable" means everybody fits in the space you have – not in the driveway, or in the neighbor's yard.

8. Never let a guest leave the party with a drink in his or her hand. Open containers in any public space are illegal in Boulder. It's also an easy way to get an MIP ticket.

9. Work with law enforcement. If you should happen to get a knock on the door from the police, just cooperate. Rather than arguing and getting multiple tickets, be polite. You may get just a warning.

10. Clean up. If there are red cups, cigarette butts, or other litter in your yard following the party, you may receive a trash ticket. Keep a trash can out during the party for empty bottles.



**Chance**  
YOU THOUGHT 80s NIGHT WOULD BE FUN. BUT AFTER "SUPER FREAK", YOUR NEIGHBORS THOUGHT, "WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT." THEY COMPLAINED.

**Go Directly TO COURT**

**or Register Your Party**  
© CU Party Registration

## Why Stop?

There are three main reasons why the cops will stop you or your party:

**Complaints:** If a complaint is made to dispatch, Boulder police are required to investigate. If you register your party however, you may avoid police contact (assuming the complaint was noise based and there are no other violations).

**Violations:** If police notice a violation it is their duty to stop and address the issue. Even though it's one party, you could be violating multiple ordinances. Keep your cool with the police and you may only end up with a warning or just one ticket.

**Your safety:** Officers will stop if they are concerned for your safety. If you are walking home after a party and the police notice that you are stumbling or acting unusual, they will stop you. If you can tell them your name, where you came from and your address, they are more likely to just let you go home.

## About Us

Off-Campus Housing & Neighborhood Relations is a function of CU Student Government and supports approximately 22,000 CU students living off campus.

Our office helps students find off-campus housing and roommates through our online rental database, Ralphie's List, and our annual housing fairs.

We also have an attorney available for free legal consultations (lease reviews, security deposit or roommate disputes, deferred maintenance, etc.) If you have any questions about off-campus living, please stop by the office. Appointments can be made with our attorney on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Location:** UMC, room 313

**Phone:** 303-492-7053

**Email:** och@colorado.edu  
offcampushousing.colorado.edu



@CUOffCampus