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Chapter Party 101

Having fun is obviously the main goal of a chapter party. But, knowing and managing your risks must also be on the agenda. No one wants a party with injuries . . . or lawsuits . . . or police.

Consider this hypothetical:

1. A group of high school students decides to crash a chapter party.
2. Your chapter house is the first one they come to.
3. The high schoolers have no trouble getting into the party because security did not check IDs.
4. What all could go wrong? It's not hard to imagine the risks the chapter has created for itself and its individual members.

One of the high schoolers could:

- Allege that a sexual assault occurred.
- Become intoxicated.
- Be injured.

Later, a high schooler or parent could:

- Call police.
- File a lawsuit.

Would the media or public opinion look fondly on a chapter that allowed high school guests without proper controls?

Chapters can greatly reduce these and other risks by managing their events in a responsible way. Chapter Party 101 includes:

Alert Leadership

Form a risk management committee with several members who remain sober and are available to handle problems. Security should know and be able to find them.

Control Access

Require your security company to check IDs. If high school age guests are allowed at a party for purposes of recruiting, etc., follow your campus rules and be good hosts.

Avoid Overcrowding

Having too many guests can complicate emergency medical responses. It can also be a fire hazard. Instruct your security company to stop admitting guests before the event becomes too crowded.

Know the Rules

Follow and find the Social Event Guidelines that apply on your campus.



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Wade Bond is a graduate of the UA Culverhouse College of Commerce. He is a native Alabamian and has worked in the insurance and risk management field for 21 years. Wade served as a risk manager in mining, transportation and banking before joining the UA staff in 2014.