

UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

It is illegal to possess or consume an alcoholic beverage if you are under 21. The drink does not have to be yours. Simply holding or touching it is enough. You do not have to consume it and law enforcement does not have to breathalyze you.



MARIJUANA & DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

The most common ways to get caught are smoking in residence halls and in your vehicle. The odor of marijuana may be probable cause to search the room or vehicle. A conviction for possession of a controlled substance, even a small amount, may result in the loss of Federal financial aid and the loss of your driver's license.

DUI

The State can prove its case by a breath, blood or urine test OR a field sobriety test. Refusal to submit to a breath, blood or urine test will result in a 1-year DL suspension. If you blow over the legal limit, then your license will be suspended for 6 months. Upon conviction, your license will be suspended for an additional 6 months. It is a valid DUI charge when you are in actual physical control of the vehicle, which includes sleeping it off in your car with the keys in the ignition.



UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRIVING

If you are under 21 and have a BAL > .02, it is an automatic suspension of your driver's license for 6 months. It is an administrative suspension that will appear on your driving record.

FAKE ID

Use of another's driver's license or identification card is a misdemeanor. It is a felony if the ID is not lawfully produced or issued (i.e. ID bought on the Internet). Officers have computers in their cruisers and can run your ID.

OPEN HOUSE PARTY

It is a crime to allow underage drinking at any social gathering in your residence. Any person in control of the residence has the obligation to take reasonable steps to prevent underage drinking (i.e. check IDs).



OPEN CONTAINER

In Gainesville, open container is generally a civil infraction. The officer can issue a criminal charge if the offender is aggressive or hostile towards officers or citizens, attempts to conceal or destroy evidence of the violation or other criminal act, takes flight or attempts to evade detainment, refuses to sign the civil citation, or if the individual received an open container citation within the preceding year; or there is a related criminal offense (i.e. underage possession of alcohol).



BE AWARE OF THE PARTY PATROL

The Gainesville Police Department has a special unit that patrols the bars & clubs in midtown and downtown, the neighborhoods around campus and apartment complexes looking for alcohol and other criminal violations.

GAME DAY ON CAMPUS

NO! Students CANNOT drink on campus during game days even if people are tailgating around you. The laws are still enforced on game days.



STADIUM VIOLATIONS

Criminal and non-criminal offenses (see the Student Conduct Code and stadium rules) may result in the loss of football tickets. At the very least, you may not be able to pick up tickets until your meeting with the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.



THEFT

Charges are based on the value of the items taken. It is a misdemeanor if the value is <\$300 and a felony if the value is >\$300. You may also be liable for Civil Theft of up to 3 times the value of the items or \$200, whichever is greater plus court costs and attorney's fees. Most stores will trespass the offender from the premises. The trespass is generally for a year and extends to the whole mall or shopping center, including the parking lots. It is a crime to violate a trespass notice.

TRESPASS

A store, bar or nightclub can require you to leave (trespass you from) the premises. Failure to leave or returning to the location can be a crime.

NOISE VIOLATIONS

Gainesville prohibits plainly audible noise that can be heard at 200 feet or more from the real property line. It is a civil infraction, not criminal, and is enforced by the Gainesville Police Department. Each resident present at the time of the violation is cited. The first offense is a warning



with no fine. If another noise violation occurs within 365 days, the violator is issued a Civil Citation with a fine of \$250, and a new 365-day period

begins. The fine increases with each successive violation. Noise violations can often lead to criminal charges if the officer observes a person breaking the law.

RESISTING ARREST WITHOUT VIOLENCE

It is a crime to interfere with law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. That can include disturbing the officers as they question your friend.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

On campus violations and charges by the University Police Department will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. There is a University administrative hearing to determine whether the student violated the Student Conduct Code. It is separate and independent of any criminal court proceedings with a lesser burden of proof.



OFFICER DISCRETION

Law enforcement DOES NOT have to give you a warning first. If there is a criminal offense, the officer has the option of physically arresting you and booking you into jail.



We recommend that you cooperate if possible and not give the officers a hard time to avoid spending the night in jail.

UPD JURISDICTION

UPD has the authority to issue citations or make arrests for incidents within 1,000 feet of University property. It includes fraternity and sorority houses. Be aware that UF has property throughout the Gainesville area.



SILENCE IS GOLDEN

You have the right to remain silent...USE IT! If law enforcement has a reasonable suspicion that you are involved in a crime, they can ask for your name and identification. However, you have the right to remain silent about the facts of the case and to speak to an attorney.



MUGSHOTS

If you are physically booked into jail, the mugshot and arrest information will likely show up on the various mugshot websites. It can be a costly process to remove the arrest information from each website and bury the information in the search engine results.



DON'T GET CHOMPED!



The Swamp Survival Guide

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