



What to Do When the Party Turns Ugly

The excuse of "I was only watching," may lead to your arrest, conviction and expulsion if things get out of hand at a street party. Previous years' Palmer Fest messes have resulted in a "no tolerance" attitude of police and prosecutors towards students who "participate" in near riot situations. If someone starts a street fire or things get out of hand, the excuse that you were "not doing anything" may not work to prevent your arrest and conviction.

IF YOU ARE TOLD BY THE POLICE TO LEAVE OR GET INSIDE, YOU MAY BE ARRESTED IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY. HERE'S WHAT YOU MAY FACE:

AGGRAVATED RIOT: If you participate with four or more people in disorderly conduct, including any offense of violence (ARSON, THROWING BOTTLES OR CANS)

RIOT: If you participate with four or more people in disorderly conduct and your purpose is to commit a misdemeanor, or to hinder or impede a government function OR to act with unlawful force or violence (THROWING BOTTLES, NOT LEAVING SCENE)

FAILURE TO DISPURSE: If five or more persons participate in disorderly conduct, and you are present and the police order you to disperse, and you fail to obey the order (NOT LEAVING OR OBEYING A POLICE ORDER).

MISCONDUCT AT AN EMERGENCY: If you hamper the actions of or disobey the orders of police officers, firefighters, or emergency medical persons at the scene of a fire, accident, "RIOT" or emergency. (REFUSING TO LEAVE OR OBEY AN ORDER).

DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Causing inconvenience or alarm, engaging in fighting or violent behavior, insulting or taunting which provokes violence, hindering or preventing movement, or while intoxicated engaging in conduct causing a risk of harm to persons or property. (FIGHTING, YELLING INSULTS, REFUSING TO MOVE, DAMAGING PROPERTY, THREATENING BEHAVIOR, THROWING BOTTLES)

MOST OF THE ABOVE OFFENSES CAN BE PUNISHABLE BY JAIL AND HEAVY FINES. IT MAY RESULT IN YOUR IMMEDIATE EXPULSION FROM ANY STATE UNIVERSITY AND INELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID. REMEMBER: IT'S NOT WORTH HANGING AROUND WHEN THE PARTY TURNS UGLY.

THE CENTER FOR STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES DOES NOT ENCOURAGE ANYONE TO VIOLATE THE LAW. WE DO NOT CONDONE OR ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE OR HIGH RISK DRINKING OR DRUG USE. WE DO BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND BE FREE FROM UNDUE HARASSMENT. THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE, NOR IS IT INTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL ADVICE.

(740) 594-8093 -- WWW. STUDENTLEGALRIGHTS.ORG

