



February 17, 2020

Dear Students:

As Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day approaches, we strongly encourage safety, responsibility and respect for your fellow students, this community, and for yourselves. Activities such as binge drinking that are associated with this event pose serious risk to your health and safety. Very regrettably, there have been incidents of death and many more have been seriously injured, hospitalized, or both as a result of activity during Unofficial. If you drink, please do so legally, responsibly, and in moderation.

Safety Suggestions and Laws to be Aware:

- Keep parties small and only allow invited guests. Ensure everyone at the party choosing to consume alcohol is at least 21 years old. If there are uninvited guests at your party, ask them to leave. Call the police if they won’t leave.
- Per Illinois Social Host Laws, if you host a party, and underage guests possess alcohol or are drinking, you may be arrested and charged with a Class “A” misdemeanor. If a person is injured or killed as a result of your party, *even after they have left the party*, you may be arrested and charged with a Class 4 felony.
- Exercise enhanced safety while commuting – as a pedestrian, cyclist, or motorist. Being intoxicated comes with delayed reflexes, reduced coordination, impaired memory, poor judgement, and other impairments. Arrange for travel plans before any drinking begins.
- Do not carry open alcohol in public. It is against Illinois law and subject to fines.
- Do not consume or use cannabis in public. Despite the recent changes to Illinois law, those acts are still illegal and subject to fines. Additionally, the possession of cannabis on university property remains illegal under federal law, and violators are subject to legal consequences or student discipline.
- Don’t test your balcony by overcrowding it with guests and do not incorporate games or play that involve tossing items from your balcony. Those too are subject to fines.
- Look out for each other. If you see an individual who needs assistance, call 9-1-1 so they can be evaluated and provided safety. It is critically important to call for help when someone is in medical distress or if their safety is otherwise threatened.
- The State of Illinois’ Medical Amnesty Law allows people who are drinking underage to call 9-1-1 for a friend without the risk of receiving a citation. The University’s Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan procedures reinforce this by protecting students from legal or disciplinary consequences to the victim or themselves.

Law enforcement will be out during Unofficial, monitoring parties and taking enforcement action. Our primary goal on March 6, as it is every day, will be to ensure the safety of everyone in our community and campus. We’d like to count on your support and cooperation to help achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cobb
Chief of Police
Champaign Police

Matthew Myrick
Interim Chief of Police
University of Illinois Police

Bryant Seraphin
Chief of Police
Urbana Police