

**Off Campus Representatives:  
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University Police:  
Chief Stephen Goulet**

**Off-Campus Suggested Party Protocol:**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of these suggested protocols devised with Chief Goulet and 2009-2010 Off-Campus Representatives is to provide students with helpful suggestions for hosting and attending social gatherings responsibly and safely. Protecting students is the primary goal of University Police, however, certain circumstances often dictate the need for police intervention/arrest. These suggested protocols are intended to provide framework that may limit the circumstances that often lead to police intervention/arrests. Clark police officers attempt to work in a manner geared towards fewer instances of police intervention/arrests of students whenever possible. According to Chief Goulet, one main reason why police are compelled to act during a social gathering is when people are hesitant to identify themselves as the host of the party. If no one takes responsibility for hosting a party, then everyone must vacate the premises. Let it be noted that "repeat offenders" (apartments where the police have been notified more than once and have placed notations) may have a stricter set of guidelines as Worcester Police have already identified these homes as problematic. These suggested protocols have been designed to possibly help prevent off-campus housing residents from becoming flagged as repeat offenders.

Suggested Protocols for Hosts of Social Gatherings:

1. Control the Crowd. Keep attendance low as to avoid noise disturbances, have someone hosting the party be stationed at the door to actively turn away people if the crowd becomes too large. If your party has reached maximum capacity, turn people away at the door. If UP/WPD arrives and sees people waiting outside your home, it is best if you explain that you have been trying to turn uninvited people away (as well as the guests under 21).
2. Control the noise. Make sure that people aren't being too loud and that music cannot be heard outside of the home. This is the number one reason why WORCESTER police are notified about Clark parties. Not all of our neighbors are college students, and they often do not call university police to address noise issues, they call the Worcester police station.
3. Control the situation. Discretion and legal issues are key when it comes to serving alcohol. Remember that it is illegal to serve alcohol to anyone under 21. If you have a keg visible when police enter, they are compelled to kick

everyone out (as it is likely that not all of your guests are 21). Have someone monitoring the alcohol intake. You should never be in a position where you feel as if the crowd is unmanageable. If the party is getting out of control (too loud or too crowded), kick the younger crowd out first. Remember, the state of Massachusetts has a “social host liability” statute. This essentially means that you can be held responsible in a court of law for your guests and their behavior if alcohol was consumed in your home (even after they have left your home).<sup>1</sup>

4. Keep people off of your front lawn. If your party spans outside onto your front lawn, it is a red flag that the party is out of control. If guests are gathered outside with open containers, this gives the police a reason to further investigate. If people refuse to leave your front lawn, call UP and ask them to assist you with moving people along.

5. If UP/WPD arrives, the host should be the first person that speaks with them by greeting officers at the door. Chief Goulet said that most of the time, the police simply want the students to turn down the music or downsize the number of people. If the resident greets the police officer at the door right away and the noise complaint is addressed, there is a better chance that the party will be able to continue. If a door is slammed in the face of the police officer or the officer cannot locate one of the hosts, this is when EVERYONE gets kicked out. It is also important to furnish your ID when asked.

6. Call UP before your party gets out of hand or if people who aren't students are entering. When uninvited guests attend off-campus parties, they are often there for motives other than socializing with guests. You are endangering yourself and your guests by allowing people you don't know enter your home. Do not confront verbally or physically, this is the job of the Police Dep't. **Be aware of uninvited guests at your parties. You will most likely not be penalized for having a party if you call UP because someone you don't know is in your home.** This is a safe and responsible decision to make, as you may be putting yourself and your guests in danger by allowing that person to be there. If you find yourself in a position where guests that you do not know are present and you feel unsafe, call University Police and have them escort these guests outside.

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<sup>1</sup> *SocialHostLiability.org*. Hosted by Campbell, Campbell, Edwards and Conroy. Social Host Liability expands the legal responsibility for the consumption of alcohol beyond the person who consumes it to those who furnish it. The intoxicated guest remains liable to persons injured as a result of his actions, but now shares that liability with the host. In many states the social host may also be liable for injuries suffered by the intoxicated guest. Imposing liability on the host reflects the modern view that the provider of alcohol has an obligation to the public to reduce risky behavior by furnishing alcohol safely and responsibly.

7. As a host, be respectful. There is a difference between advocating for your privacy rights and being outright rude to UP. According to Chief Goulet, timing is everything. The time to argue is not 1 am or 2 am. If you feel that your rights were infringed upon, call University Police in the morning to discuss the issue. If the focus of the interaction is arguing, you will get nowhere. Quietly disperse your party and adhere to the 7 suggested protocols listed above so that it may not get to this point.

You increase your chances of having your party continue (but quieter and more contained) if you greet an officer at the door and discuss why law enforcement is there. The goal of UP in this circumstance often isn't to end a party, but to allow the party to continue LEGALLY (anyone under 21 consuming alcohol needs to leave your home) and quietly. If the host does not greet officers at the door, this makes their job less discretionary and it also indicates that you are NOT in control of your party.

#### Suggested Protocols for Attendees:

1. Do not enter parties that are already overcrowded. If there are too many people, leave. By attending a heavily attended party, you are increasing the chance that the party will get broken up due to noise complaints or people outside of the home leaving or waiting to get in.
2. After leaving a party, do not linger on the front lawn. This puts the host in a position in which law enforcement may need to get involved, especially if people are drinking outside of the home, which is a common occurrence. Bottom line: do not consume or possess outside. Move along to your next destination. Call the student escort service for a van ride.
3. Do not consume alcohol on the street.
4. Take escort! Even if you are with a large group of people, it is best to not be wandering the streets of Main South late at night especially if you have been drinking and your judgment is impaired.
5. Nothing in these suggested protocols prohibits or limits the arrest and/or criminal process options the Worcester Police Dep't has within it's capabilities to deal with these situations.
6. University Police have the ability to process any illegal/inappropriate activities off campus through the Undergraduate Judicial Board system on campus.
7. Produce a valid ID when asked to do so.

#### Student Safety Escort Service:

If a party is ending, please call escort to ensure safe transportation for you and your friends. There have been rumors circulating that University Police

track student movements through escort. This is not true. Do not let this rumor discourage you from taking advantage of escort services.

**“C’s” to Consider:**

Control the noise levels

Control the crowd

Control the situation (no underage drinking in your home)

COOPERATION with University/Worcester Police Officers.