

LEGAL ISSUES AND YOUR DEGREE: WHAT IS YOUR DEGREE WORTH?

YOUR DEGREE MAY NOT BE WORTH AS MUCH AS YOU THINK IF YOU'VE BEEN CONVICTED OF AN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME. MANY EMPLOYERS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS PERFORM BACKGROUND CHECKS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL JOB OFFER OR ALLOWING ENTRANCE TO A GRADUATE PROGRAM. THIS MEANS IF YOU HAVE AN ALCOHOL-RELATED MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY ON YOUR RECORD, YOU MAY BE DENIED AN OCCUPATION DESPITE YOUR EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

For example, did you know that for many professions of nursing, engineering, medicine and health professions, veterinary medicine, education, and law include "good moral character" as a requirement for their licensure process? Certification boards may deny, revoke, or suspend licenses to practice based on alcohol-related legal offenses.

Alcohol convictions that may affect job offers include:

- Carrying, manufacturing, or providing fake identification.
- Misrepresentation of age to purchase alcohol.
- Possession of alcohol by a minor.
- Driving under the influence.
- Disorderly conduct.
- Purchasing or providing alcohol for minors.

VISIT [HTTP://PIP.MISSOURI.EDU](http://pip.missouri.edu) FOR A LIST OF SOME PROFESSIONS THAT REQUIRE A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE AND HOW ALCOHOL CONVICTIONS MAY MEAN THAT SOME OF THESE PROFESSIONS ARE OUT OF YOUR REACH.

ABOUT PARTNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE
PARTNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (PIEC) IS A STATEWIDE COALITION FOCUSED ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING AMONG MISSOURI'S COLLEGE STUDENTS. THE COALITION IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF MISSOURI'S 13 STATE UNIVERSITIES AND IS UNDERWRITTEN BY GRANTS FROM THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PARTNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, GO TO [HTTP://PIP.MISSOURI.EDU](http://pip.missouri.edu)

FOR MORE ANSWERS, CONTACT:

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Counseling Services - 573.875.7423
<http://www.ccis.edu/campuslife/counseling>

DRURY UNIVERSITY

Counseling Services - 417.873.7418
<http://www.drury.edu/counseling>

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY

Counseling Services/Wellness Center - 417.865.2815 ext. 7222
<http://www.evangel.edu/Students/Resources/Counseling/>

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Counseling Services - 314.340.5112

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Student Health Services - 573.681.5476

MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT LOUIS

Health & Wellness Services - 314.529.9520
<http://www.maryville.edu/studentlife-health.htm>

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advising, Counseling, and Testing Services - 417.625.9324
<http://www.mssu.edu/acts>

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Dean of Students' Office - 417.836.5527

MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Counseling Center - 573.341.4211

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Counseling Center - 816.271.4327

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

University Wellness Center - 660.562.1348

ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

Counseling Center - 816.501.4275

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Student Health and Counseling Services - 314.977.2323

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Substance Abuse Prevention and Education - 573.986.6191
<http://www6.semo.edu/SAPE>

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

University Counseling Services - 660.785.4014

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

Office of Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention - 660.543.8338

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Wellness Resource Center - 573.882.4634
<http://wellness.missouri.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

Counseling, Health and Testing - 816.235.1635
<http://www.umkc.edu/chtc/>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Wellness Resource Center - 314.516.5380
<http://www.umsl.edu/services/health>

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

Counseling & Health Services - 573.592.5361
<http://www.westminster-mo.edu/studentlife/chs>

WHAT EVERY COLLEGE STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW

INFORMATION ABOUT ALCOHOL & OTHER COLLEGE HEALTH ISSUES

MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT DRINKING IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. NO ONE CAN MAKE THIS DECISION FOR YOU. SINCE THE CHOICES YOU MAKE ABOUT ALCOHOL USE COULD BE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS YOU MAKE IN COLLEGE AND THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE, PLEASE CONSIDER A FEW FACTORS THAT MIGHT IMPACT YOUR DECISION.

YOUR LOCAL POLICE, CAMPUS SAFETY DEPARTMENT OR POLICE, AND UNIVERSITY TAKE ALCOHOL OFFENSES VERY SERIOUSLY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE LAWS THAT MAY AFFECT YOU SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO DRINK. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DECISIONS.

LAWS RELATED TO ALCOHOL

WHAT IS THE DRINKING AGE?

The legal drinking age in the State of Missouri is 21. It is against state law to consume, purchase, or possess alcohol if you are younger than 21.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I AM CAUGHT DRINKING AS A MINOR?

Illegal consumption, possession, or distribution of alcohol by a minor is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you may be fined up to \$1000 and/or imprisoned for up to one year. In addition to fines, you will need to pay court costs and attorney fees.

IF I AM UNDER 21, CAN I GET IN TROUBLE FOR BEING DRUNK IN PUBLIC?

Yes, a new law in Missouri, effective August 28th, 2005 states that if the police find you visibly intoxicated or you have a detectable Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .02 and you are under 21, they can charge you with "minor in possession by consumption". This means that even if you are not holding the alcohol container, but have consumed alcohol, you can be charged with a MIP.

WHAT ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING?

Anyone who drives while intoxicated can be charged with a DWI (Driving While Intoxicated). Under the "Zero Tolerance Law", anyone younger than 21 with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .02 or greater could lose their license. With a BAC of .08 or more (at any age), the arresting officer will take your license on the spot, often resulting in restrictions on driving privileges. The vast majority of people charged with driving under the influence are convicted and face thousands of dollars in fines, increased insurance premiums, attorney fees, and criminal records. Depending on the offense and campus policy, students may face university sanctions. Be smart. If you drink, use a designated driver, take a cab, or get a ride with a designated driver who has had no alcohol to drink.

WHAT ARE THE LAWS ABOUT FAKE ID'S?

In Missouri, it is illegal to obtain, transfer, or use any means of identification for the purpose of manufacturing and providing or selling a false identification card to a minor for the purpose of obtaining alcohol. Penalties for this misdemeanor offense include fines and/or possible prison sentence.

WHAT IS KEG REGISTRATION?

When a keg is confiscated by police at a party at which underage persons have consumed alcohol, the purchaser of the keg can be identified and arrested or fined for supplying alcohol to underage persons. Penalties include a fine of up to \$1000 and/or a maximum of one year in prison. If a keg is returned to the place of purchase with a missing or defaced ID tag, the deposit is forfeited. In addition, it is illegal to sell alcohol without a license and penalties include fines and/or jail time.

IS IT THAT BIG OF A DEAL TO HAVE A MISDEMEANOR ON MY RECORD?

A misdemeanor may be on your record for life if you are convicted or plead guilty. Although the law allows for a one-time expungement of an MIP conviction from your record after a period of one year, if you have no other alcohol-related convictions, a MIP is still a serious conviction. If you do have a misdemeanor on your record, you could be responsible for revealing this information on any job application and applications for many advanced degree programs (such as medical school and law school). Yes, it is a big deal.

CAN MY DRIVER'S LICENSE BE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED DUE TO DRINKING?

What is known as the "Abuse and Lose" law and the "Zero Tolerance" law can affect your license. Abuse and Lose results in suspension or revocation of a driver's license when a person under 21 years of age is guilty of any alcohol related traffic offense (possession, consumption, or use of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle), possession or use of any controlled substance, or the modification or misrepresentation of a driver's license. Zero Tolerance means that if you are found to have more than .02 BAC then you are guilty of a misdemeanor and shall have your driver's license suspended or revoked.

WHAT ABOUT OFF-CAMPUS PARTIES?

If you host an off-campus party with alcohol and charge admission, the person accepting the money could be charged with selling alcohol without a license. Sentences for this violation involve fines and jail time. If alcohol is served to a minor, the person could also be charged with supplying alcohol to a minor and child welfare endangerment. Police respond to off-campus parties when there are noise complaints or parking problems. ID's are checked if police have reason to suspect that minors have been drinking. You risk being arrested if you are a minor.

WHAT ARE THE LAWS ABOUT HOUSE PARTIES?

Any owner, occupant, or other person with a lawful right to the use and enjoyment of any property who knowingly allows any person under 21 to consume alcohol on their property or who knowingly fails to stop a minor from drinking on their property shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Subsequent offenses will result in stiffer penalties.

YOUR ROLE AS A STUDENT

AS A STUDENT AT YOUR UNIVERSITY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT BREAKING STATE OR LOCAL LAWS AND VIOLATING CAMPUS POLICY COULD AFFECT YOUR STATUS AS A STUDENT. DEPENDING ON YOUR CAMPUS POLICIES, YOU COULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE THROUGH AN ON-CAMPUS STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CONDUCT SYSTEM WHEN YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF LOCAL AND STATE ALCOHOL LAWS. EDUCATE YOURSELF ON YOUR CAMPUS STUDENT CONDUCT CODE.

THE BOTTOM LINE

While some students may choose to party and not be responsible with alcohol, most college students in Missouri are successful because they know how to use alcohol responsibly.

BEING RESPONSIBLE WITH ALCOHOL MEANS:

KNOWING MISSOURI'S LAWS ABOUT ALCOHOL. THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE IN MISSOURI IS 21.

RESPECTING YOUR UNIVERSITY'S POLICIES ABOUT ALCOHOL.

NOT DRINKING TO GET WASTED OR SMASHED.

WATCHING HOW MUCH YOUR FRIENDS HAVE HAD TO DRINK. HELP A FRIEND IF THEY APPEAR TO BE IN TROUBLE.

KNOWING HOW MUCH YOU ARE DRINKING AND HOW ALCOHOL AFFECTS YOUR BODY. FOR MEN, LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONE DRINK PER HOUR AND FOR WOMEN, LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONE DRINK PER HOUR AND A HALF. (ONE DRINK= 12 OZ OF BEER, 4-5 OZ OF WINE, 1 OZ OF 100-PROOF LIQUOR)

USING A DESIGNATED DRIVER THAT IS SOBER. (HINT: A PERSON WHO HAS HAD NO ALCOHOL TO DRINK).

ALWAYS WATCH YOUR DRINK, NEVER LEAVE YOUR DRINK UNATTENDED, AND NEVER ACCEPT DRINKS FROM STRANGERS.

