



CENTER FOR
STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Presents:

What to Do When a Party/Fest Turns Ugly

The excuse of “I was only watching” may lead to your arrest, conviction, and possibly expulsion from Ohio University if things get out of hand at a street fest or party. Recent fest incidents have resulted in a “**no tolerance**” attitude of police and prosecutors towards students who are present 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 to go inside, you may be arrested if you do not comply. Here are some things you may face for not complying:

- 1 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 (not leaving the scene).
- 2 AGGRAVATED RIOT:** If you participate with four or more people in disorderly conduct, including any offense of violence, like **burning furniture/arson, or throwing bottles and cans**.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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. This includes fighting, yelling insults, refusing to move, damaging property and threatening behavior.

This flyer does not constitute legal advice, nor is it intended as a substitute for legal advice. Ohio University students with questions may contact the Center for Student Legal Services for an appointment.