

Guidelines for Hosting a Party in East Lansing (www.cityofeastlansing.com)

The Purpose of this section is to inform you of the laws concerning parties and alcohol regulations, provide possible ways to avoid antagonizing your neighbors or breaking the law, and help you avoid risks to yourself and your property.

- 1) Visit surrounding neighbors, be friendly, and inform them of plans for a party. Respect the fact that they do not have to tolerate you disturbing their peace or their quality of life. Party hosts should make every effort to keep the entire party on their own premises. This includes noise, litter, parking etc.
- 2) Invite only people you know to your party. The better you know people, the more likely they are to respond to your expectations and requests.
- 3) Do not advertise alcohol related parties to the general public. Large parties usually get out of control and the hosts have a very difficult time maintaining order.
- 4) Always provide non alcoholic beverages and food as an alternative to alcohol.
- 5) Do not allow underage drinking. Providing alcohol to a minor is a misdemeanor offense and carries a mandatory fine of **\$1,000**. Additionally, the host can be charged for having an unlawful party.
- 6) Keep your party under control. If you go outside, remember noise carries more than you think, especially at night. The City's noise ordinance states that you cannot have any noise that leaves your property. If there is any noise that is plainly audible from the street or adjacent property then you are subject to a noise violation citation. The police are under no obligation to give you a warning. The fine can range from **\$175 to \$1,000** for the first offense. Additionally, your landlord will be notified every time there is any type of violation on your property.
- 7) Clean up any litter that is generated from your party immediately. P.A.C.E. Officers and police officers have the authority to issue party litter warnings and citations if a property is not cleaned up. Residents have two hours from the time they are notified of the violation to clean up the mess. The fine for party litter starts at **\$175**.
- 8) Do not allow anyone to drive home if they have had too much to drink. A host can be held civilly and criminally liable for the intoxicated person's actions. Know when to stop serving alcohol.
- 9) Do not possess or provide false identification to a police officer or liquor establishment. Doing so constitutes disorderly conduct and subjects the offender to arrest and a **\$250** fine.
- 10) It also helps to register your party at the East Lansing Police Desk. Officers will know who to contact if there is a complaint. If the police do come to your party, make every effort to cooperate. Immediately make contact with them and provide them with your identification. Ask your guests to quiet down and turn off any amplified music.
- 11) Do not sell alcohol. It is illegal to have an unlicensed cash bar. It is also illegal to sell cups, have a cover charge, or charge for a band or other entertainment and "give away" the alcohol. Doing so constitutes a "blind pig" party for which you may be charged with a **felony**.

12) Don't have a party every weekend. Your neighbors will become less and less tolerant of the activities surrounding the party.

13) Do not carry open containers of alcoholic beverages in public. This is illegal in East Lansing, even if you are 21.

14) Have sober people at the party that are monitoring activity and can provide rides to those that have had too much to drink.

No Underage Drinking

Sec. 26-53: It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol. Any person suspected of being a Minor in Possession of Alcohol on game days will be required to show proof of age, and may be asked to take a breath alcohol test.

No Open Fires

Sec. 26-52: It is illegal to be within 300 feet of a structure fire, vehicle fire or open fire in the City of East Lansing. This includes all barbecues and grills on public property or the private property of another. (31) Other prohibited acts under the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance include public urination, destroying public property, causing a public disturbance, resisting arrest, unlawful assembly (a gathering of four or more people with intention of riot) and other similar behavior.

No Excessive Noise

Sec. 26-81 This ordinance prohibits noise which may disturb neighbors. Tailgating off campus is not only illegal; it can result in a misdemeanor offense. Examples of prohibited noises include stereos played at loud levels and inappropriate shouting at any time. After 11 p.m., the noise violation will be written as a misdemeanor offense.

Enhanced Party Noise/Drinking Games

The amendment defines enhanced party noise as a violation of the noise ordinance and two or more of the following conditions:

- A live band or disc jockey or other live entertainment
- A common source of alcohol used to serve the guests, such as a keg
- A charge to gain entrance into the residence or to consume alcohol
- Amplified sound emanating from speakers placed or directed outside of the building
- Outdoor drinking games where alcohol is involved

No Nuisance Parties

Sec. 26-141: A party conducted on the premises of the City can be designated as a "nuisance party." If public drinking or drunkenness, public urination, unlawful sale or furnishing of alcohol, unlawful deposit of trash or litter, destruction of property and/or other similar behaviors occur, a party can be declared an unlawful public nuisance.

No Parking in Yards

Sec. 50-814: Any Day or night be sure to park in legal spaces, and pay attention to parking signs to avoid receiving a ticket. It is illegal to park a motor vehicle in any yard within the City.

No Littering

In accordance with state law, it is illegal to litter on public or private property within the City of East Lansing. In cases where property owners are issued a notice of violation for party litter, a received notice should be complied with within eight hours.

Fines

Open Alcohol in Public

Civil Infraction..... \$160

Misdemeanor \$500 maximum fine and/or 90 days plus court costs

Minor in Possession of Alcohol (MIP)

Misdemeanor 1st Offense..... \$100 maximum fine plus court costs

Disorderly Conduct

Misdemeanor \$500 maximum fine and/or 90 days plus court costs

Noise Ordinance

Civil Infraction..... \$260

Misdemeanor 1st offense..... \$250 minimum fine and \$500 maximum fine and/or 90 days plus costs

Enhanced Party Noise Ordinance

Civil Infraction..... \$1070

Misdemeanor..... \$500 minimum fine and a minimum of 72 hrs. community service