

ALCOHOL, DRUGS & THE LAW:

10 Things You Need to Know

Alcohol and drug use can have significant legal consequences. Here's what you need to know.



Arrest vs. Conviction

1 A citation issued by law enforcement (e.g. UAPD, TPD, Arizona Liquor Control) for alcohol or drug charges such as minor in possession of alcohol or marijuana possession is considered an arrest and you are charged with a crime.

2 You don't have to be cuffed to be considered arrested. Law enforcement can cite and release you as long as you sign the criminal citation promising to appear in court. Failing to appear results in a criminal warrant and you being booked into jail.

3 Arizona is a non-expungement state, which means that your criminal records are NEVER erased in Arizona.

4 At times, UAPD uses their discretion and does not issue a citation and instead directly refers you to the Dean of Students Office for diversion, resulting in no criminal record. Completion of the diversion program dismisses the charges, but failure to do so results in a criminal warrant for your arrest.

5 UA Diversion can be offered only once, either by UAPD or the presiding court.

Fines

6 If you are cited by UAPD, it is also a violation of Code of Conduct and you will be referred to the Dean of Students. The costs of educational and monetary sanctions, along with local court fees, may total several hundred dollars.

Attorney Fees

7 If you decide to hire an attorney (not necessary in most cases) they will charge \$200-\$300 per hour and may require a retainer fee.

Graduate/Professional School Disclosure

8 Most graduate and professional programs require disclosure of all arrests and convictions as part of the application process.

9 Even if you are not cited by UAPD but were sanctioned through the UA disciplinary process, you will have to disclose this as part of your prior institutional action history.

Employment Consequences

10 Depending on the severity and frequency of the charges you may not be eligible for certain employment, such as federal jobs that require a security clearance.



Questions?

Student Legal Services is free, here to help, and funded by your Student Services Fee. Go to legal.asua.arizona.edu and click the "Book An Appointment" tab to make an appointment.