

Fling Partying: Myths and Facts

The Undergraduate Assembly, in coordination with the Inter-fraternity Council, PanHellenic Council, and relevant university sources, compiled this document to reduce the amount of confusion that arose during last year's Spring Fling. The document takes no stance on the various conversations regarding fling, but is solely informative, so that each individual Penn student has the tools and accurate information to make what they believe to be the right decision for themselves. If you have other questions that weren't answered from this article be sure to email fling@pennua.org; we will be continuing to compile useful questions for the future!

Myth: The alcohol and other drug policy is different during Spring Fling.

Fact: Penn's policies on drugs and alcohol apply every day of the year and can be found [here](#). This means that drinking under the age of 21 is prohibited, providing alcohol to others under the age of 21 is prohibited, illegal drugs are illegal, and unregistered parties aren't permitted.

Myth: No one but my guests can enter my room during Spring Fling.

Fact: According to your Occupancy Agreement, RA/GAs, House Deans, and other College House staff may enter your on-campus residence for inspection of adherence to the university alcohol and drug policy. FlingSafe volunteers (they will have on FlingSafe t-shirts and credentials) will not enter rooms or confiscate the contents of a room.

Myth: The Medical Amnesty Policy only applies to the person who needs help.

Fact: The purpose of Penn's [Medical Amnesty Policy](#) is to facilitate good decision-making during high-risk situations including drugs and alcohol. As such, the policy extends to the individual who needs assistance as well as the person seeking assistance on their behalf. The policy states: *"No student seeking medical treatment for an alcohol or other drug-related overdose will be subject to University discipline for the sole violation of using or possessing alcohol or drugs. This policy shall extend to another student seeking help for the intoxicated student."* In other words, no one should be afraid of getting in trouble if they seek help in a medical emergency.

However, it is important to note the Medical Amnesty Policy is not a "get-out-of-jail free card". If you engage in other types of violations (assault, vandalism, fake ID, etc.) you may still be held accountable to the university and/or the police, no matter what condition you are in.

As always, if there is a medical emergency you should always call [215-573-3333](tel:215-573-3333).

Myth: The Penn Police want to arrest students during Spring Fling.

Fact: The purpose of Penn Police is to keep our community safe, which is why they will intervene when they believe there is a risk to health and safety. There are a variety of reasons the police may approach you during Spring Fling: public intoxication, open container, noise complaints, giant parties, disorderly conduct, etc. Your best approach during Fling is to keep a level head and cooperate if the police ever approach you.

Myth: The University invites the LCE to crack down on students during Fling.

Fact: The [Pennsylvania Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement](#) is a branch of the state police and has jurisdiction to enforce liquor laws anywhere at any time anywhere in the state, including within Penn's

off-campus neighborhood and local bars. This means the LCE can cite or arrest students at any time of year. Since the LCE is very focused on enforcing compliance with the state liquor laws, they have historically targeted underage purchasers, hosts of underage drinkers, as well as local bars and alcohol distributors that sell to underage customers.

Fact: The Pennsylvania Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement and Penn's Department of Public Safety have a "working relationship" and the LCE will often notify DPS in advance if they plan to have a presence within Penn Police's jurisdiction. However, the LCE is a state police force and whether they choose to have a presence at Penn or not is ultimately their own decision.

Myth: There will be undercover cops at Fling.

Fact: Undercover cops have been used in the past by the LCE during 'high risk' periods at Penn, which includes Fling as well as similar weekends. Like explained above, only the LCE could confirm their presence this year, however, given their history at Penn as well as other schools throughout Pennsylvania, many have come to expect the presence of undercover cops during fling.

Myth: I can be arrested for simply attending a party.

Fact: You won't be arrested for the simple fact that you attended a party. How you behave at that party and after an officer approaches you may be a different story. If you are of age and are only engaging in legal behavior, you shouldn't be in any trouble with the police. However, if your behavior is disruptive to others or if you are breaking liquor laws, i.e. drinking underage or supplying alcohol to minors, you are at risk for legal issues.

Myth: If I host a party off-campus, alcohol policies don't apply.

Fact: If you host a party you are taking on some risk. If your party gets out of control with people spilling out of the house, loud music, and underage drinking, you may have a problem. Hosts who supply alcohol to underage drinkers can be subjected to legal or disciplinary actions. If your name is on the lease, you can be held responsible for what takes place in the property.

Myth: The only parties to go to are off-campus.

Fact: Up to 8 events with alcohol can be registered on campus by student organizations this Fling and four of those events are reserved for non-Greek organizations. And of course, don't forget that SPEC has official fling events in the Quad and College Green throughout the weekend.

For additional information, please click [here](#).