

## Nuisance Party Regulations (Or Potential Charges to Avoid!)

Hosting or attending a party should be fun, right? It's all about having a good time. It's not about paying a fine, going to jail, or having to admit to a criminal offense on a job application.

Here is a list of some of the things that can happen when good parties go bad:

Public intoxication

Outdoor urination or defecation in a public place

Unlawful sale, furnishing or dispensing of beer, wine or alcoholic beverages

Unlawful consumption of beer, wine or alcoholic beverages in public

Underage possession of beer, wine or alcoholic beverages

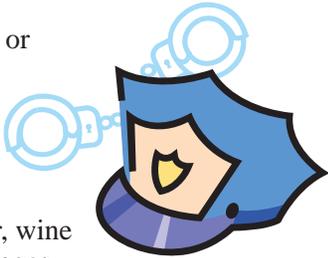
Littering

Damage or destruction of property without the consent of the property owner

Illegal parking

Noise violations

Fighting or any other conduct or condition that threatens injury to persons or damage to property



## Want More Information?

Read more about laws and ordinances of the City of Ames at [www.cityofames.org/municipalcode](http://www.cityofames.org/municipalcode).

## Noise Ordinance

The maximum noise level for the hours of 7 a.m. to midnight is 60 decibels and for the hours of midnight to 7 a.m. is 55 decibels. The sound may be measured from many locations including the edge of the street or alley or from inside an apartment. The volume of a normal conversation is typically between 50 and 60 decibels. If you are standing outside and still need to talk louder than normal to be heard, the party is probably too loud.

According to Section 16.9 of the City Code, if you are charged with violating the noise ordinance, the penalty is \$50 for the first violation and \$100 for each repeat violation. There may be additional court costs.

If an officer is available and conditions permit, it may be possible to measure the sound levels before the party. If you live off campus and intend to exceed the maximum levels of sound, you must submit an application at the Ames Police Department for a noise permit. Your request must be received at least 24 hours in advance. There is no charge.

## Important Phone Numbers

Ames Police	
Non-emergency number	515.239.5133
Safe Neighborhoods Team	515.231.4661
Utility Customer Service	515.239.5150
Power Outage	515.239.5240
Housing Inspections	515.239.5153
City Manager's Office	515.239.5101
Water Problems	515.239.5150
Report a Streetlight is Out	515.239.5500
Crime Tip Hotline	515.239.5533

# How to Party in Ames!

**The very short guide on how to have fun with your friends and not get into any trouble with your neighbors or the police.**



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## It's Party Time!

People have parties for many reasons. Whatever the reason for your party, two basic rules apply:

1. It should be a pleasant experience for those in attendance.
2. It should not be an unpleasant experience for your neighbors.



## Want to have a Great Party? Start Here.

Don't have "open" parties. Make attendance by invitation only and don't invite too many guests. Consider parking and the amount of room you have to accommodate your guests without having them spill out into your neighborhood.

Tell your neighbors you are having a party, when it will start and when it should end. Give them your phone number and encourage them to call you first if they have a complaint.

**Basic rule:** Keep noise to a minimum! See the Noise Ordinance section for more information.

## Be Your Own Party Police

Don't wait for your party to get out of hand, stay actively engaged. Police your own party by stepping outside occasionally and walking a short distance away. What you hear is what your neighbors hear. Make adjustments as necessary.



If you serve alcohol, make it part of the event and not the event itself. Do not sell or furnish alcohol to minors!

Stay sober yourself. It's hard to be a good host when you are impaired. You never know when you might have to handle an emergency. Don't allow people at your party to leave the premises with open alcohol containers.

If party crashers appear, call the police immediately at 515.239.5133.

If police officers show up at your residence in response to a complaint, listen and follow their suggestions or directions. They have a responsibility to investigate the complaint and bring it to a resolution.

Do not assault or interfere in any way with the responding officers and do not allow your guests to do so. Any of these actions can result in criminal prosecution.

## Serving Alcohol? Size Matters!

Before holding an event where more than one beer keg tapper is to be used at the same time, you must first obtain a permit from the Ames Police Department.

Permits may be obtained by only an individual, not corporations, associations or groups of people. The permit must be obtained at least 24 hours before the event. Applications are available through the Chief's Office at the Ames Police Department.

To obtain a keg permit, you must attend a brief session conducted by the Ames Police Department concerning litter, open liquor containers, parking, noise, and serving beer or liquor to underage or intoxicated persons.

You are bound by applicable ordinances of the city and state statutes, including state law requiring a permit or license for the sale of beer.

Display your permit in a prominent place at the event site.



Failure to obtain a keg tapper permit is punishable by fines of up to \$100 and court costs.

The purpose of the briefing is to provide you with information relating to your legal obligations when making alcohol available to others, and to help you plan for a successful, socially responsible party. There is no charge for a permit.

## Bootlegging. It's a Real Thing.

It is illegal to sell alcohol without a license (bootlegging). This means it's illegal to charge guests for alcohol, empty cups, or admission to the party.

You can get arrested and charged with bootlegging if you are caught selling alcohol at your party. Seriously.

## Once the Party is Over

After everyone has left or early the next morning, be a good neighbor and clean up after your guests. This means going around the neighborhood and picking up any trash or cans that may have been left behind.

Why not leave the area around your party even better than you found it?

