Off-Campus = Off-the-Hook?

It’s summertime! Many of you may be heading home, pursuing internships or jobs, or traveling. Chapter or recruiting events may be held off-campus at a lake, a rental, or a private home. Does being off-campus mean that you are off-the-hook as far as risks? No.

Off-campus activities have many risks for you individually, as well as your chapter:

- **Criminal**
  
  Criminal laws, like hazing statutes and drinking laws, apply on- and off-campus. In fact, being out-of-town could be worse for the offender. Police and courts don’t look fondly on those who bring crime to their jurisdiction. An [off-campus party in Maryland](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/act-local/wp/2015/09/11/when-hazing-goes-too-far/-?utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=act-local&xid=1576110458456) may lead to 110 charges of underage drinking and $275,000 in fines.

- **Liability**
  
  Is security sufficient? Are the premises safe? The same rules of good events apply at your chapter house and off campus.

- **Insurance**
  
  Will your chapter insurance protect your group for events off-campus? Do you need a special event policy? Better check.

- **Reputation**
  
  Even if it’s not “your” event, your reputation may be ruined by off-campus misconduct. Remember the OU bus chant? Or the FAMU band hazing? Both occurred off-campus.

- **Student Code**
  
  Your student code of conduct allows punishment for certain off-campus wrongs.

Summer can be a time of great freedom and fun. But, don’t mistake it for a time that is free of risk or responsibility. Off-campus does not mean off-the-hook.