Chapter Party 101

Having fun is obviously the main goal of a chapter party, but knowing and managing your risks must also be on the agenda. No one wants a party with injuries . . . or lawsuits . . . or police.

Consider this hypothetical:
1. A group of high school students decides to crash a party
2. Your chapter house is the first one they come to
3. The high schoolers have no trouble getting into the party because the security did not check IDs
4. What all could go wrong? It's not hard to envision the risks that chapter has created for itself and its individual members

One of the high schoolers could:
• Alleged that a sexual assault occurred
• Become intoxicated
• Be injured

Later, a high schooler or parent could:
• Call police
• File a lawsuit

In these days of heightened interest in Greek misconduct, the media and public would have zero tolerance for a chapter that allowed high school guests without proper controls.

Chapters will greatly reduce these and other risks by managing their events in a responsible way. Chapter Party 101 includes:

- **Alert Leadership**
  Form a risk management committee with several members who remain sober and are available to handle problems. Security should know and be able to find them.

- **Control Access**
  Require your security company to check IDs. Do not allow high school age guests in events where prohibited.

- **Avoid Overcrowding**
  Having too many guests will complicate emergency medical responses. It can also be a fire hazard. Instruct your security company to strictly comply with all occupancy rules.

- **Know the Rules**
  Find and follow the Social Event Guidelines that apply on your campus, and to your organization.

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