

the RED CUP

Q&A



separating alcohol fact from fiction
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

Q One of our friends drunkenly injured himself. He didn't want to go to UMC for fear of being cited and charged with an MIP. Where I come from, they don't call the police on underage drinkers. Is it the same here? If he needed to go to the hospital we would have taken him, regardless.

A. Good for you, recognizing that your friend's welfare is more important than the potential of an MIP (minor in possession of alcohol) for either one of you. Doing the right thing may prevent more serious medical complications or a fatal tragedy. People can live through judicial and legal consequences but they don't always survive serious injuries or alcohol poisoning. When in doubt, it's always best to step up and help a friend. Better to attend a judicial hearing for them (or yourself) than risk attending a funeral. Now and then, life doesn't give us second chances to do the right thing.

Hoping to prevent student deaths due to inaction, some colleges and universities have policies to protect students seeking medical care from judicial sanctions. The UA does not have such a "medical amnesty" policy to protect underage drinkers from alcohol and other drug (AOD) sanctions if they call 911 or take a friend to the hospital.

Proponents of medical amnesty maintain that such policies can remove the barriers to getting needed medical care by granting pardon from legal consequences. Opponents of such policies argue that medical amnesty conflicts with "zero tolerance" AOD policies and research has been inconclusive about the benefits and drawbacks. To read more, check out www.higheredcenter.org.

Keep in mind that students who are respectful of authorities will always fare better than those who are drunk, obnoxious, or belligerent.



wildfact

"Proof" is double the percent of alcohol in hard liquor. Captain Morgan Rum (35% alcohol) is 70 proof.



Got a question about alcohol?

Email it to redcup@email.arizona.edu



www.health.arizona.edu

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