

# the **RED CUP** Q&A



**separating alcohol fact from fiction**  
EVERY TUESDAY IN THE DAILY WILDCAT

**Q** Why must mail be sent to my parents regarding an MIP (minor in possession of alcohol) if I'm an 18 y.o. legal adult? At that age shouldn't it be my responsibility to handle the problem, especially if my expenses are not paid by my parents?

**A.** You are referring to the Parental Notification amendment to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) passed by Congress in 1998 allowing, but not requiring, college campuses to notify parents of students under age 21 who violate campus drug and/or alcohol policies. The amendment states that...

“an institution of higher education may disclose to a parent or legal guardian information regarding any violation of any Federal, State, or local law or of any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance... if the student is under 21 and the institution determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation.”

That's a mouthful and it means that if you're caught with alcohol on campus or recently consumed alcohol (body is a container law), your parents will receive a letter from the university after you've been cited informing them of the violation. Just an FYI: the student consensus seems to be to make the call home yourself before your parents receive the letter.

The intent of this policy is to inform and engage parents in prevention/intervention as needed, allowing parents to become involved before their son or daughter gets into more serious trouble with substances. For example, sometimes treatment may be necessary and parents can help facilitate that process. Many colleges and universities use this notification policy and a majority of parents are supportive of the practice (72% per a 2000 survey by Association for Student Judicial Affairs' Model Policy Committee).



## wildfact

**96% of underage UA students have not received a Minor in Possession in the past year (99% in past 30 days).** (2010 Health & Wellness Survey, n=2,931)



**Got a question about alcohol?**

Email it to [redcup@email.arizona.edu](mailto:redcup@email.arizona.edu)



[www.health.arizona.edu](http://www.health.arizona.edu)

The Red Cup Q&A is written by Lynn Reyes, LCSW, LSAC, David Salafsky, MPH, Lee Ann Hamilton, MA, CHES, and Spencer Gorin, RN, in the Health Promotion and Preventive Services (HPPS) department of the UA Campus Health Service.