Iowa State Multicultural Greek Council

Sober Monitor Information

Members of the Iowa State Greek Organizations are upstanding members of the community. We have each made a promise to live lives of values and service, our events should reflect that. Sober monitors are a very good way to help provide a safe environment for attendees. Monitors are charged with observing the event and enforcing organization standards, university policies, and applicable laws. The information provided here is intended to help your organization and members utilize sober monitors. Keep in mind that the information here is not comprehensive and your organization should reach out to the university or your governing council if you feel you need help with keeping your events safe.

Suggestions for a Sober Monitor Programming

These are some guidelines to include in your sober monitor program.

* Monitors are not to consume alcohol
* One monitor for every 25 guests is recommended11
* One sober chapter officer per event2
* Monitors should be older members of the organization, new members should not be monitors
* Special clothing that is easy to distinguish in a crowd should be worn
* Organization president or other lead officer should limit their use of alcohol during social events to ensure a safe environment
* Position monitors at each entrance (ideally one) and exit of the venue
* Monitors should have access to all parts of the venue where attendees will be
* Monitors should be fully aware of emergency protocol

Responsibilities for Sober Monitors

To best ensure the safety of your attendees, sober monitors should be empowered to:

* Check the identification of the attendees and the guest list upon entry
* Identifying attendees who are above drinking age (wristbands, stamps, tags)
* Call 911 if an emergency should arise
* Deny access to the event to anyone they think is already impaired by alcohol or drugs
* Ask members and guests to leave if they begin to behave inappropriately

Things to Consider for your Organization

These are some questions your organization should ask when implementing monitors.

* How should monitors be selected for each event (rotation, volunteer, etc.)?
* What sort of clothing should the monitor wear?
* What other responsibilities should the monitors have?

Sexual Assault and Sober Monitors

Preventing sexual assault is living your organization’s values to the highest degree. Having an empowered and sober presence at an event can help prevent assault. As members of the community and persons of authority monitors have the responsibility to be aware of the possibility of sexual assault and be prepared to stop it.

Conflict Management

Here are some tips to calm a potentially disruptive guest:

* Speak directly and clearly
* Use first person (“I’m sorry, I can’t let you do that.”)
* Give reasons to decisions and actions
* Try not to embarrass the attendee

Most Important

The most crucial thing to remember is to never be afraid to seek help if things are out of control or if someone is hurt. If necessary call 911. See something, say something.