

# People Not to Meet when Exhibiting Irresponsible Drinking

Chelsey Tubbs  
Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin

## Abstract

My research evaluates the consequences that occur when breaking College policy and Federal law by irresponsible alcohol consumption. My hypothesis is that students do not realize the severity of the consequences of consuming alcohol irresponsibly and the legal proceedings from making that choice. My data comes from Beloit College policy, Wisconsin State Law, and interviews from Beloit College Administration and Security as well as a City Of Beloit police officer. Our alcohol policy is unique and in order to maintain the policy, students need to make responsible choices when consuming alcoholic beverages, especially those who are underage. Failure to obey the policy and/or the law can result in suspension, expulsion, arrest, loss of driving privileges, and a permanent criminal record. Students should not forget that Beloit College is unique in its drinking policy. Trouble may occur when partying on other campuses.

## Introduction

Someone once said, “You never have a second chance to give a first impression.” My research concentrates on the professionals one meets when becoming severely intoxicated and their roles in assisting with public intoxication. I explore two situations;

Scenario #1 – Pre-partying, dancing at the party, getting in their car, driving to Taco Bell, being picked up by the police, going to jail, parents being notified, making bail, receiving their tickets, dealing with the College Administration, appearing in court, paying fines, taking alcohol-abuse courses, dealing with a criminal record.

Scenario #2 – Pre-partying, continuing to “golf” to other rooms/buildings, passing out, not waking up, security being called, going to the emergency room, parents being notified, staying in the hospital for observation, receiving tickets, dealing with College Administration, appearing in court, paying fines, taking alcohol-abuse courses, dealing with a criminal record.

## Method

I examined Beloit College Policy and Wisconsin State Law. Interviews were conducted with Tracey Summers, Beloit Police Officer; Bill Flanagan, Dean of Students; John Winkelman, Residential Life Director and Assistant Dean of Students; and Mike Pollizi, Security Officer of Beloit College

## Discussion

Students sometimes forget that Beloit College is unique in its drinking policy and find themselves in serious trouble when returning home or partying on other campuses. The relationship the College has with the City of Beloit in law enforcement on campus is special and can only remain that way when majority of students choose to drink responsibly. Policies are always upheld for both Beloit Police officers and Beloit College Administration and Security. Although for Beloit College it is more of a case-by-case basis when dealing with alcohol infractions, the relationship and procedures that occur when both the police and College come together is legally and educationally effective. Both understand that while policies have to be upheld, it is a partnership in dealing with the individual and helping them. At Beloit, it appears that irresponsible behavior is deterred by the community fostered here as well as the policies and procedures upheld. It is understood that this is an adult privilege and we all must condemn irresponsible behavior that disrespects the College and the Beloit community.

Figure 1: Alcohol



## References

- (1) Beloit College Policy - <http://www.beloit.edu/~stuaff/policies/drugsandalcohol05.php>
- (2) Wisconsin State Law - <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/95wb3.pdf>
- (3) **Interviews from Tracey Summers, Beloit Police Officer; Bill Flanagan, Dean of Student; John Winkelman, Residential Life Director and Assistant Dean of Students; and Mike Pollizi, Security Officer of Beloit College, February-March, 2007**

## Results

When there is an alcohol poisoning of an underage Beloit College student;

- ✓ Friends/peers of the student contacts Security.
- ✓ Security appears at the scene and assesses the situation. If the student is visibly very intoxicated – such as unresponsive when spoken to or touched, Security calls the Dean Staff on duty. The RA is also notified by Security. After calling the Dean Staff on duty, an ambulance is called to the scene.
- ✓ Once an ambulance is called to the scene, the Beloit Police show up as well to access the situation.
- ✓ The student, if coherent, can choose to be treated at the hospital or not. If they choose not to be treated at the hospital, a underage drinking ticket is given to the student. If they choose, or the choice is made for them to go to the hospital, they are given the ticket after arriving at the hospital.
- ✓ The Beloit Police and Beloit College administration notify the parents because technically, it is an arrest even if the student cannot be formally arrested.
- ✓ After receiving the ticket and within three days before the court date, the student has to make an alcohol assessment appointment and attend the interview with a parent.
- ✓ Once appearing in court, the assessment confirmation must be presented which tells the court what recommendations have to be completed within 90 days. The assessment for most agencies is \$75.00. The follow-up recommendations include an alcohol education class. In Beloit, a police officer teaches the course. Most convictions will result in monetary fines with a suspension of driving privileges.
- ✓ If the student fails to complete the alcohol education program, the result is a \$249.00 fine and a 90 day vehicle suspension [Wisconsin State Law SS 125.07(4) (b)].
- ✓ When the student returns to school, John Winkelman meets with the student to discuss the situation and decide the next approach for dealing with the situation. All are educated on the respect and behavior for themselves and the community, the effects of alcohol, and responsible use of alcohol in one's life.
- ✓ The judicial process begins at the College by upholding policies and examining sanctions regarding the consequences of the incident. All are judged on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ If a student does not agree with the judicial ruling of the College of being suspended or expelled, they are able to appeal and then Dean Flanagan decides the fate of the student.
- ✓ If the student does not agree with Dean Flanagan, the last appeal can be made to the College President.

When a Beloit College student is pulled over for driving while intoxicated;

- ✓ A Beloit Police Officer will be the first on the scene and will assess the severity of the alcohol consumption.
- ✓ Although the Beloit Police will deal with the student because it is off campus, they do call Security and let them know the situation.
- ✓ Security then calls the Dean Staff on duty and discusses the situation and what can be done for the student.
- ✓ The Dean Staff on duty and a Security officer will go down to the Beloit Police Department and bail the student out and be there for them.
- ✓ The Beloit Police and Beloit College administration notify the parents since an arrest has been made.
- ✓ After receiving the ticket and within three days before the court date, the student has to make an alcohol assessment appointment and attend the interview with a parent (if underage).
- ✓ Once appearing in court, the assessment confirmation must be presented which tells the court what recommendations have to be completed within 90 days. The assessment for most agencies is \$75.00. The follow-up recommendations include an alcohol education class, which for Beloit, a Beloit police officer teaches the course. Most convictions will result in monetary fines with a suspension of driving privileges.
- ✓ For a DUI, there is a mandatory 30-day driver's license suspension even for a first offense when the program is completed [Wisconsin State Law SS 125.07(4) (b)].
- ✓ If the student fails to complete the alcohol education program, the result is a \$249.00 fine and a 90 day vehicle suspension [Wisconsin State Law SS 125.07(4) (b)].
- ✓ When the student returns the school, John Winkelman meets with the student to discuss the situation and decide the next approach for dealing with the situation. All are educated on the respect and behavior for themselves and the community, the affects of alcohol, and examining the responsible role of alcohol in one's life.
- ✓ The judicial process begins at the College by upholding policies and examining sanctions regarding the consequences of the incident. All are judged on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ If a student does not agree with the judicial ruling of the College of being suspended or expelled, they are able to appeal and then Dean Flanagan decides the fate of the student.
- ✓ If the student does not agree with Dean Flanagan, the last appeal can be made to the College President.