



City of Poughkeepsie Police Department

62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY. 12601

Non-Emergency: 845-451-4000 Emergency: Call 911

Off Campus Guide

- Tips
- Advice
- Recommendations
- Considerations

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Being a Good Neighbor

The City of Poughkeepsie welcomes students to live in its residential neighborhoods. You bring vitality and spirit to the City! At the same time, you are residing in established neighborhoods with long-time residents. Your day to day living habits will impact your neighbors.

Know Your Neighbors

The first step in fostering good relationships with your neighbors is getting to know them. Make an effort to introduce yourself to your neighbors. It will be much easier to solve any problems that may arise later if you and your neighbors are acquainted and feel comfortable approaching each other.

Be Considerate

Your schedule and that of your neighbors may differ considerably. The make-up of the neighborhood could vary from students to parents with young children who require early bedtime hours, to residents who work full time. Look around at your neighborhood and try to adapt to customs and traditions of the permanent residents there. For instance, do not park on the street (and do not let your friends do so) if permanent residents there do not - even if there is not a "no parking" sign. Otherwise, your presence is likely to be resented.

Parties and Noise

Parties

In a compact neighborhood with adjoining yards and nearby homes, a party in one house can have an unintended impact on a neighborhood house. To avoid giving your neighbors an unpleasant surprise, let them know when a party is planned. Send them a note at least three days in advance of the party, telling them about the event and giving them the hours. Ask them to give you a call if they need to discuss the event. They will appreciate your consideration and may be more tolerant of an increased noise level if they know the reason and have some idea of when the party is scheduled to end.

Please note that informing your neighbors of the party does not give you the right to cause a disturbance!

If a neighbor does complain about something, listen and try to respond positively. After all, they are doing you a favor by giving you a second chance to be a good neighbor, when they could be calling the police immediately.

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Be in tune

Your tunes - whether being played inside your place or in your car - will cause problems if they are played too loudly. What is too loud? If they can be heard at the edge of your property or outside the car with the windows closed, the volume is up too loud!

Would you wanted to be quoted on that?

Neighborhood families often have small children who will hear and see everything you do. Personal conversations are personal, but language that can be overheard by others should be okay for children to hear too - even if it's a "serenade" meant for your peers.

Excessive Problems

In the event repeated noise violations have occurred or the party has become a continual disturbance, neighbors are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement. Local authorities have the ability to contact Marist College Security when necessary.

ALCOHOL

College and university administrators nationwide have consistently cited high-risk ("binge") drinking as the number one substance abuse problem. Student health practitioner personnel identify it as the major public health problem among college and university students. High-risk drinking is a contributing factor in poor academic performance, property damage, bodily injury, sexual assault, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Nationally, full-time college students aged 18-20 are significantly more likely to have used alcohol in the past month or to have binged compared to their peers not enrolled full time (includes part-time students or persons not enrolled in college). Also, past month alcohol use was reported by 64.1% of the fulltime students versus 54.3% of their counterparts who were not enrolled full time. Binge drinking was reported by 44.4% and 18.8% respectively. Among college students 18-22 years of age nationally, males are more likely to report alcohol use. Of these students, 67.5% of the males and 59.2% of the females report they currently use alcohol. Among the males, 51% report binge drinking and about one-third of the females report binge drinking. Please be aware that Marist College maintains off-campus jurisdiction. In addition to the policy stated in the Code of Conduct, you should be aware of the following:

In the City of Poughkeepsie,

- Consuming alcoholic beverages in public places, including picnic areas, golf courses, roads, and sidewalks is illegal with possible fines: \$ 50.00 and 6 months in jail

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- All consumption of alcohol must occur in your house, or in a restaurant, bar or club.
- The “Open Container Law” (section 14-19 of the Code of Ordinances) states that it is illegal to possess an open container containing an alcoholic beverage in a public place with the intent to consume. If the seal is broken, the container is less than full or if you are intoxicated, it is presumed that the intent to consume is present. Partygoers, leaving a residence and walking on the sidewalk with cups containing alcohol, are likely to be found in violation of this section. When hosting a party, keep in mind the following: It is your responsibility to stay in control of yourself and your guests. For your safety and the safety of your guests, avoid overcrowding that might block exits, cause collapse to porches, vehicles blocking street and inappropriate use of “outdoor bathroom facilities”.

Remember to:

- Talk to your neighbors
 - Clean up after the party
 - Avoid excessive alcohol consumption, which increases risk of personal injury or death, sexual assault and legal problems
- The New York State Alcoholic Beverage Law prohibits:
- serving alcoholic beverages to minors, i.e. under 21 years of age (section 14-48 of the code of ordinances) (Possible Fine: \$ 50; Continual offenses may result in a fine up to \$1,000.)
 - prohibits selling any alcoholic beverages without obtaining the appropriate license. This is a Class A misdemeanor subject to jail term and fine
- In addition:
- A DWAI (Driving While Ability Impaired) conviction may result in a fine no less than \$ 300 or greater than \$ 500 or imprisonment for 15 days, or both
 - A DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) conviction may result in a fine no less than \$ 500 and no greater than \$ 1000 or 1 year in prison, or both.

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• A Driving While Ability Impaired By Drug conviction may result in a fine no less than \$ 500 and no greater than \$ 1000, or 1 year in prison, or both. Don't let guests consume and or leave your home under the influence of alcohol or drugs! Driving while intoxicated or impaired endangers their lives and the lives of others and can subject them to criminal charges New York State legislation has tough penalties for drunk and drugged driving. There is a sixth month suspension of a driver license for any alcohol or drug conviction. Any minor charged with an alcohol related offense automatically has their junior license suspended. The state Driving While Intoxicated level has been lowered to .08 BAC. New York State law requires that any keg of beer purchased requires an identification tag be attached to every keg sold at a retail store that contains the name and address of the retail store, the name of the purchaser, and a keg identification number. This allows for law enforcement professionals to track keg sales, especially those purchased and then given to people under age 21 for consumption.

YOU can be held responsible for the driving accident of party attendees and can be sued for damages or injuries they cause.

"One for the Road" could cost you \$ 9,130

Towing	\$ 80+
Car Storage Fee per day	\$ 25
Defense Attorney	\$ 2,000 +
DWI Fine upon Conviction	\$ 500 +
Surcharge – DWI	\$ 160
Alcohol Evaluation	\$ 185
Crime Victim Assistance Fund	\$ 20
Probation Supervision Fee	\$ 30
Drinking Driver Program	up to \$ 225
Conditional License	\$ 75
Driver Responsibility Assessment, 3 Years	\$ 750
License Reinstatement Fee	\$ 50
Victim Impact Panel	\$ 20
Auto Insurance Increase for 3 Years or More	\$ 5,000 +
Total	\$ 9,130

Make Smart Decisions

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

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Personal Safety (general)

- You should never walk alone! However, if you must walk alone, have a plan and choose open well lighted and well traveled areas.
- When walking you should walk facing traffic. Be cautious of drivers that stop to talk to you.
- BE AWARE of your surroundings! Giving the appearance of not paying attention and not being alert is what offenders look for in a victim.
- NEVER HITCHHIKE!
- Always tell someone where you'll be and what time you are going to return.
- Do not wear headphones while walking or jogging.
- Do not read while walking or standing on the street.
- Clogs, high heels, and tight skirts are hard to run and fight in. Capes, scarves and long necklaces are easy to grab. Consider modifying your clothing.
- Avoid being on the street alone if you are upset or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- If you are being followed: cross the street, change directions, keep looking back so the person knows you can't be surprised. Enter a residence hall, library, etc. Look for a crowded area.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: If something "feels wrong" , something probably is wrong .
- If you find yourself in a situation with an assailant, don't be afraid to loudly call attention to what the assailant is doing ("Help!" "Get your hands off me!" "This man is bothering me..." , etc.).

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Dealing with Harassment and Stalking

Harassment can come in many forms. A person can be harassed through the mail, on voice mail systems, through e-mail, on the telephone, or even in person. Unfortunately, harassment often evolves into stalking. If you feel that you are being harassed or stalked (even if you are not sure), you should report this to the Police immediately. The following are some additional tips for dealing with stalking and/or harassment:

- Document each encounter with the alleged suspect. Record dates, times, and what happened. Keep all written communications you receive from the suspect.
- If you receive unwanted phone calls...Hang up as soon as you hear an obscenity, inappropriate remarks or questions, or no response to your "hello?" You do not have to listen to the caller!
- Make a note of the date and the exact time of "each" phone call. If you receive multiple calls, keep a running log of the dates and times the calls were made. Also note if the call was a hang up, what the caller said, and anything unusual about the caller.
- If you receive harassing voice mail or e-mail messages, be sure to save the message(s) for Police evidentiary purposes.

If You Are Sexually Assaulted

- If you have been sexually assaulted or are the survivor of sexual violence, help is available. You have many choices regarding the type of assistance you may want. You may feel overwhelmed by the decisions facing you. When a person is sexually assaulted, oftentimes s/he loses a sense of control over her/his life. One way this sense of control can begin to be restored is by making the decisions that you feel are best for you. There are many options available to you. The following is a list of major categories to consider with information on what will occur should you choose that option. It is designed to offer you information so that you can make the choices that are best for you.

Medical Attention

- Your safety and health are a priority. If you have been injured in any way during the assault, it is important to consider getting immediate medical attention. You may also have injuries of which you are unaware and should consider medical treatment. Seeking medical attention does not mean that you need to press charges.
- It is important to remember not to bathe, shower or douche as this destroys evidence.

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- Evidence is also destroyed or compromised by smoking, drinking or eating. If possible, these activities should be avoided prior to evidence collection. However, the examination can still be done even if you have done all of the above.

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE LOCAL ORDINANCES

Although the City of Poughkeepsie has many local ordinances, these are a few of the more commonly cited City Ordinances.

In March , 2005, the City of Poughkeepsie amended the City Charter, Chapter 19, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, section 2.2, Definitions and section 4.22, Student Residences relating to student housing. The most significant aspects of the amendments relate to the definition of a student residence and the elimination of 24 student residences in the R-1, R-2 and R-2A zoning districts. The amendments also restructure implementation of the city's landlord registration process, inspection process, off street parking requirement and revocation of a student residence registration under certain circumstances. Students renting in the City of Poughkeepsie should be familiar with these regulations in order to be sure they are renting a housing unit that is in compliance with the law. Be sure to discuss this with your landlord! These regulations can be viewed on line at the City of Poughkeepsie website under the City Charter at www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com.

CREATING A NUISANCE (Possible fines: \$ 1000.00 per day)

The Common Council has adopted a nuisance ordinance which includes numerous grounds upon which legal action can be brought against owners and tenants if a nuisance exists as the result of conduct of residents of the property (Sections 14-47 to 14-51 of the Code of Ordinances). You should be aware that the Ordinance authorizes the City Law Department to bring a nuisance action against students residing in a student home which has been the subject of two or more complaints to the City for disturbing the surrounding neighborhood by excessive noise or holding large parties where excessive noise, garbage and litter, destruction of neighborhood property, increased traffic and parking problems, and/or violations, abusive and threatening conduct to neighbors and/ or illegal sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages has occurred. In addition to the fines that can be imposed on property owners, YOU, as the tenant can be evicted from the property if the City obtains a court order to evict you if the nuisance reoccurs.

Disorderly conduct (Possible fine up to \$240.00)

Violations of this law include: engage in fighting or in violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior,

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Making unreasonable noise; in a public place using abusive or obscene language, or making an obscene gesture;. Without lawful authority, disturbing any lawful assembly or meeting of persons; obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic; congregating with other persons in a public place and refusing to comply with a lawful order of the police to disperse; creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose.

REASONABLE NOISE (Possible fines: \$ 300.00 and 10 days in jail)

The City's Noise Ordinance (chapter 13) prohibits "unreasonable noise". If the noise occurs between 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., intrudes into a residential zoning district, and is louder than the background noise in the area, a violation is likely to be found. This means that you may be ticketed by the police if a noisy party is occurring at your home or music is blasting from your home or vehicle. You will have to appear in the local City Court to answer the ticket.

PARKING REGULATIONS (Possible fines: \$ 10.00 to \$ 1000.00)

The City's parking regulations are in Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances:

- Comply with "No Parking" and "Restricted Zone" sign as they carry higher penalties
- Parking of any motor vehicle on your front lawn is prohibited
- Vehicles cannot be driven or parked on sidewalks or they may be towed
- Vehicles cannot be parked in front of a driveway or they may be towed
- Your vehicle can be towed from the street if you have six or more delinquent parking tickets. Vehicles are required to be moved every 48 hours by City Ordinance- do not leave for vacation or for home with your car parked on the street or it will be ticketed and may be towed. It can also be towed for the following reasons:

An abandoned motor vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle left unattended:

- 1) With expired number plates and/or no number plates affixed thereto for more than six (6) hours on any highway or other public place;
- 2) For more than twenty-four (24) hours on any highway or public place, except a portion of a highway or public place

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on which parking is legally permitted;

3) For more than forty-eight (48) hours after the parking of such vehicle shall have become illegal if left on a portion of a highway or public place on which parking is legally permitted; or

4) For more than ninety-six (96) hours on property of another if left without permission of the owner of said property.

Section 13-61 Penalties for offenses of one who abandons a car: No person shall cause any vehicle to be abandoned in the city. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the owner of an abandoned vehicle caused such vehicle to be abandoned. A violation of this provision shall be punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Destroying, defacing or removing parts from abandoned vehicles. No person, other than one authorized by the City of Poughkeepsie, shall destroy, deface or remove any part of a vehicle which is left unattended on a highway or other public place without number plates affixed or which is abandoned. A violation of this section shall be a Class A misdemeanor.

- Release of a vehicle that has been towed is conditional upon payment of the parking ticket(s), Administration Fee of seventy five dollars (\$75), together with ninety five dollars (\$95) for the cost of removal between the hours of 8am and before 9pm. One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) if removal is between the hours of 9pm and before 8am. Any removal requiring a winch will be an additional sixty five dollars (\$65). Storage fee will be at the rate of twenty five dollars (\$25) per day on said vehicle.

- Vehicles cannot be left standing where they will obstruct traffic

- Be aware of signs on your street which indicate you are residing in a Permit Parking District- contact the City's Parking Department (845-451-4120) to obtain a permit

- Parking against traffic is prohibited on City streets.

- Snow Emergency Ordinance:

Section 13-2 Snow emergency; proclamation of Mayor: In the event that the Mayor shall deem that public health and safety are endangered by accumulations of snow on the public streets and highways of the city, (s)he may, by written proclamation, declare

that a public emergency exists and (s)he may order that all motor vehicles be removed by the owners or operators thereof from said streets and highways, or from such said streets and highways as (s)he may specify in said proclamation, on or before a time to be specified by him/her in said proclamation, not less than one (1) hour from the public promulgation thereof. Section 13-6. Removal of vehicles by city during snow

emergencies: In the event that any motor vehicle shall be left parked or standing on any of the public streets and highways of the city in violation of the proclamation provided for in Section 13-2 or any rules or regulations there under, said vehicle shall be deemed to constitute an obstruction of traffic and shall be subject to the provisions of Article IV of Chapter 13 of this Code, the city shall cause said motor vehicle to be removed from said streets and highways, and the owner shall be required to pay the city an administrative fee of Seventy five dollars (\$75), together with ninety five dollars (\$95) for the cost of removal between the hours of 8am and before 9pm. One hundred twenty five dollars

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