

“Any Event An Outside Observer Would Associate With Delta Chi”

As members of Delta Chi, this is a phrase that applies to our daily lives as individuals and as chapters. For some members, this may be a familiar statement, for some, it is not. Realizing that we have members all over the spectrum of familiarity with this statement, we have put together this document to aid chapters and colonies in educating members and planning social functions.

The statement below is derived from one of the FIPG Polices:

“The possession, sale, use or consumption of alcoholic beverages, while on chapter premises, or during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, **or at any event an outside observer would associate with the fraternity**, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city and institution of higher education, and must comply with either BYOB or Third Party Vendor Guidelines.”

Basically, this means that if ANYONE can associate an event with Delta Chi, the chapter or colony has to follow FIPG guidelines. In other words, this statement applies to all chapter houses, small apartment gatherings, and anything in between.

Q: So who could be an outside observer?

A: Anyone! Including, but not limited to:

- Sorority women
- Police officers
- Members of other chapters
- Neighbors
- Parents
- EMTs, firefighters, and other emergency personnel
- Campus Fraternity and Sorority Life staff
- Other university personnel

Q: What is the “magic number” that makes a function an official Delta Chi function?

A: There is no specific number or percentage of membership that makes something an official function. Remember, it’s any event an observer would associate with the fraternity. Consider the following example:

An underage guest is drinking at a house with five or six members of Delta Chi. This person leaves the house, stumbling drunk, and falls down in front of a police officer outside her dorm. The officer asks her where she has been and where she got alcohol. She responds saying “I was just over drinking at Delta Chi.” This small, seemingly harmless event, has just been placed squarely on the fraternity. If she had been seriously injured at any point in the evening, we could have been held liable and found to be negligent.

Everyone has heard the quote “if it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck.” This logic can be applied if you have questions as to whether or not an event would be considered a Delta Chi function.

Here are some common ways to tie an event directly to the fraternity:

- Chapter or colony funds paying for any part of an event such as, including but not limited to, renting space, paying for decorations, etc,
- Having a majority of the chapter members present
- Discussing the event in chapter meetings, even if the chapter does not pay for it or “officially” endorse it in any way
- Mass advertising/promotion of the event by a majority of members, even if the chapter does not “officially” endorse it in any way
- Having a theme
- Purchasing alcohol via “pass the hat” or other sort of method of pooling money
- Displaying letters anywhere at the event, even if it is something permanent at a member’s residence
- Posting photos or videos of the event to social media using hashtags such as #deltachi

The best tip we can give you is to think about what actually constitutes a Delta Chi event. A Delta Chi event does not have to be specifically endorsed by the chapter – it’s the collaborative actions of members. Because of this, the conduct of members can hold the chapter liable for their actions.

Should you have any questions regarding this protocol, the Headquarters office at 319-337-4811.