

The Real Estate Law Review on Students Moving Off Campus: Rules Are Rules

by Isaac Benmergui, Esq on August 22, 2014



Finally, keep a cool head on your shoulders, and don't go crazy. Just because you're in college and going to school doesn't mean the same rules will apply to you as they did in a dorm room or fraternity. That's the funny thing about colleges, as they're almost like plastic bubbles, their own cosmic universes with their own rules and regulations seemingly outside of the realm of municipal laws, such as illegal possession of alcohol by a minor.

Once you're off campus, you're no longer bound by those "campus" disciplinary systems. You might get caught sucking down a beer in your dorm room, and you'll get a slap on the wrist – but out in regular real estate where you're paying your own bills, if you happen to be 18 years old, and you've got a bottle of Jack Daniels out on your porch, and your neighbor notices and calls the police, you can get in major trouble.

Landscaping, upkeep, and of course public nuisance laws are also a big deal, unless a lot of that's already handled by your landlord. In a dorm room, you for the most part can be as loud, crass, and crazy with your boom box as you want, without worry of a cop knocking on your door. Even fraternities would have to only worry about campus security perhaps having a talk with the guys about settling it down. That's a far cry from you having a major party at the house several blocks away from campus and then getting a knock on the door to find the police standing there, writing a citation for being a disturbance in the neighborhood. And you certainly don't want to see what the fine would be on the citation, especially if you're working hard in college and only maintaining a measly part-time gig to get by on the bills.

Observe the laws well. Be responsible. Be professional. This is the big time for you, Mr. College Student.

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