

LAWS TO KNOW

DRINKING AGE

- The drinking age throughout New Orleans, Louisiana, and the United States is twenty-one (**21**). It is unlawful for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase or consume alcohol. It is unlawful for anyone to sell or serve alcohol to a person under the age of 21. Many bars, restaurants and convenience stores will ask you to show them your Picture Identification (ID) when entering or attempting to purchase alcohol. Do not take offense; it is the law. Your UNO student ID is not considered a legal form of personal identification. When going somewhere with the intent to consume alcohol, always carry your passport, driver's license or Louisiana ID card.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)

- Driving while under the influence of alcohol (also known as Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)) is a serious offense. In the State of Louisiana, a person is considered legally intoxicated if his/her blood alcohol level is **.08 percent (.02 for people under 21)**. Penalties for FIRST-TIME offenders include:
 - Fine of \$300 to \$1000
 - 10 days to 6 months in jail
 - Suspension of driver's license
 - Penalties for MULTIPLE OFFENSES include seizure of car, fine of \$5000, and 30 years in jail! *The bottom line: do not drink and drive. Besides the possibility of fines and jail, you could cause your own or someone else's death.*

DRUGS

- It goes without saying that you should never use or be in possession of a controlled substance. Drug offenders are punished very severely. You *will* go to jail.

DRIVING WITHOUT INSURANCE

- Being uninsured is not just a bad idea...it is illegal! Louisiana law *requires* you to carry liability insurance. If you are stopped by a police officer and fail to show proof of insurance, your car will be taken away and you will be issued a ticket. Look in the Yellow Pages under Insurance Companies for information on car insurance.

CHILD CARE

- It is illegal in the US to leave children under the age of 13 home alone without adult supervision. If you are caught leaving your children home without adult supervision, it is called Child Neglect and could cause the State to take custody of your children.

IMMIGRATION

IMPLICATIONS

- **Criminal activity** that has immigration consequences includes: conviction for or admission of a crime of moral turpitude (CMT); conviction for aggravated felony; conviction for drug-related offenses; drug-related activities not resulting in conviction (drug trafficking and drug/alcohol abuse); and Security-related offenses, whether or not resulting in conviction (espionage, sabotage or terrorist activity). Conviction for immigration purposes means a formal judgment of guilt entered by a court where either a judge or jury found the individual guilty; OR you enter a plea of guilty and the judge ordered some form of punishment.
- **Moral Turpitude** refers to conduct which is inherently improper, vile, or depraved, and contrary to the accepted rules of morality. Anyone who is convicted of, admits committing, or attempts committing a so-called crime of moral turpitude (CMT) is inadmissible (cannot obtain a US Visa stamp) and deportable with certain exceptions. Examples of CMT include: Aggravated assault, spousal abuse, manslaughter, rape, arson, forgery, child abuse, bribery, fraud offenses, burglary and more. Examples of crimes that are not CMT include: simple assault or battery, misdemeanor DWI or DUI, urination in public, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, most traffic violations, and consumption of alcohol by a minor.