A party or social gathering that is or becomes a nuisance party, as defined in Section 9.14.01, shall cease upon the order of the police chief, or the police chief's designee; and all persons not residing therein at the site of such social gathering or party shall leave the premises immediately. Any person who fails or refuses to obey and abide by such an order shall be guilty of a violation of this section.


Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor; for a second offense committed within 18 months after the commission of the first offense, the person shall be guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor.

Q: How is the law enforced in Athens?

A: Essentially, any police officer who witnesses, at (or related to) a social gathering, any one of the enumerated offenses in section 9.14.01 or any other conduct or condition that threatens injury, inconvenience, or alarms to persons or damage to property, is authorized to declare the gathering a nuisance party. The officer will stop at the house and issue an order to disperse pursuant to section 9.14.03.

Q: Will I be cited for a violation of nuisance party?

A: Circumstances of each violation will dictate whether a resident is cited for section 9.14.02 (Duty to Control Premises). Certainly, when the police department issues an order to disperse, any person who fails to leave the party will, at minimum, be cited for violation of section 9.14.03 and may be subject to arrest for other violations, such as “Failure to Comply” or “Obstructing Official Business”.

Q: What are the typical violations that cause a party to be declared a nuisance?

A: Noise violations, litter violations, disorderly conduct, underage consumption/possession of alcohol, throwing items beyond the property line etc.

Q: What should I do if an officer appears at my house to enforce the nuisance party ordinance?

A: Comply with the officer’s requests. Failure to comply with the officer’s requests to shut down the party will result in citation and/or arrest.

Q: What is the best way to avoid violating the nuisance party ordinance?

A: Keeping control of your party is the short answer. Keep noise to a minimum and respect your neighbors. Keep litter cleaned up both during and after the party. Keep your guests on your property; don’t let them wander into the neighbor’s property. Don’t let anyone leave with an open container. Don’t allow underage persons to consume or possess alcohol at your party. Don’t allow anyone to throw items beyond your property line. Don’t allow “crazy” or “off-the-hook” behavior at your party. Ask belligerent guests to leave; don’t hesitate to summon police for help.