

Public Safety and You FAQ

Q: What authority do Public Safety officers have?

The Department of Public Safety operates under the authority granted by UD's board of trustees and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1713.50. Our police officers have arrest authority within the state of Ohio and jurisdictional authority on UD owned or controlled properties and on public and private properties within the campus boundaries and have the same legal authority as any other police officer in Ohio.

Q: I live in a landlord-owned property. Do UD police officers have authority there?

Yes. UD police officers are sworn officers who have the same legal authority as any other police officer in Ohio. UD officers have enforcement authority for local ordinances, state and federal law, and the student code of conduct. Students living in landlord properties are still subject to the university's code of conduct and the laws of the State of Ohio and the City of Dayton.

Q: Why do some people receive warnings while others are referred to the student disciplinary process or even cited/arrested?

Officers base enforcement action on each situation's set of merits and facts. Factors of an officer's decision on enforcement action may include one's cooperation with the officer, prior offenses or severity of the situation.

Q: My residence received a warning for noise. Why did that happen?

The local noise ordinance for Dayton (RCGO 94.5) states a device producing sound clearly audible at a distance of 25 feet is in violation of the ordinance. Your residence was either the subject of a complaint made to a neighborhood fellow or public safety or a member of either group witnessed the violation.

Q: Our house received a warning for noise in broad daylight. It wasn't like we were keeping people awake. Can't we listen to music during the day without receiving a warning?

You can listen to music during the day without receiving a warning as long as it doesn't violate the noise ordinance. The noise ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day, every day.

Q: The officer who issued our warning said if our music could be heard 25 feet away then we are in violation of the noise ordinance. How am I supposed to know what 25 feet looks like?

Twenty-five feet is roughly the length of 6.25 cornhole boards. Twenty-five feet can also be pictured as the width of three parking spaces in a campus lot. So, if your speaker is playing at a volume that could be heard three parking spaces away if you were in a parking lot, then you are in violation of Dayton's noise ordinance.

Q: Our house received a warning on Saturday afternoon and we turned down our music. On Sunday, the same officer stopped by, told us our music was in violation of the noise ordinance and we received referrals. Why weren't we warned? We would have turned it down like we did Saturday.

Officers deal with calls on an individual basis. Officers may issue a warning when they visit a residence, however, warnings do not reset every day or every weekend. Officers may also choose to issue a referral if the residence has received warnings or if noise is not the only violation.

Q: Our neighbors received a referral for noise, but when officers came to our house, we received a criminal citation. Why did that happen?

Officers deal with calls on an individual basis. Citations are typically issued to locations where there have been warnings or referrals for the same behavior or when those present do not choose to cooperate with officers.