AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D.C.

University Policy: Parental Notification of Disciplinary Violations Involving the Use or Possession of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance

Policy Category: Student Policies

Subject: Parental notification of certain disciplinary violations

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Office of Campus Life

Procedures: Not Applicable

Related University Policies: Drug Policy; Alcohol Policy; Medical Transports: Alcohol and Other Drugs

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I. SCOPE

This policy establishes the conditions under which the University will notify parents or guardians about students' disciplinary violations involving the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Under specified conditions, the University will notify parents or guardians of students' disciplinary violations involving the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance. The University is guided by provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and laws of the District of Columbia in its notification practices.

III. POLICY

The central commitment of American University is to the development of thoughtful, responsible human beings in the context of a challenging yet supportive academic community. Consistent with this philosophy, the University communicates its expectations for students' behavior through a Student Conduct Code. Violations of the Code are addressed through the student conduct system.

Among the categories of misconduct subject to disciplinary action under the Code are violations of published University policies pertaining to the sale, distribution, manufacture, use, or possession of alcohol or any illegal drug, and related violations of local, state, or federal law. While universities are not required to do so, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act does not restrict them from

communicating directly with parents or guardians of students under the age of 21 who are found responsible for violations of the Code in these categories.

Consistent with the laws of the District of Columbia, American University regards students who have reached the age of 18 as adults with commensurate rights and responsibilities. Students are afforded the right to privacy in conduct matters, unless or until they forfeit that right through egregious or repeated violation of the University's alcohol or drug policies or of the law. Notification of parents or guardians in instances where students have been found responsible for alcohol or drug violations is carried out with consideration for the students' interests.

American University will generally notify parents or guardians of students' misconduct related to alcohol or controlled substances when:

(1) A student's violation of the University's alcohol or drug policies is judged by the dean of students or designee to be egregious, to indicate that the student's health or safety may be at risk, or that the student may have placed others at risk.

(2) A student's violation of the University's alcohol or drug policies results in a student's removal from the residence halls, or suspension, or expulsion from the University.

(3) A student is found responsible for a violation of the University's drug policies or for a second violation of the University's alcohol or drug policies, however minor, and all subsequent violations of alcohol or drug policies.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE(S)

This Policy was last reviewed in July 2010.

V. SIGNATURE, TITLE AND DATE OF APPROVAL

This policy needs to be signed by the appropriate officer (listed below) before it is considered approved.

Approved:

Vice President of Campus Life

Date Approved: 10/29/10