



University Policy: Medical Transports: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Policy Category: Student Policies

Subject: Alcohol or drug-related medical transports

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

Procedures: Not Applicable

Related University Policies: Drug Policy; Alcohol Policy

I. SCOPE

This policy establishes the University's protocol for managing medical transports prompted by students' use of alcohol and other drugs.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The University will follow a protocol for medical transports prompted by students' use of alcohol and other drugs that protects the wellbeing of both the individual and the campus community.

III. POLICY

American University is committed to providing a safe campus environment conducive to intellectual growth and personal development. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs threatens the health and safety of the individual and disrupts the community, particularly when abuse results in a student requiring medical attention and transport to the hospital.

When a student refuses to be transported, despite a thorough assessment from an emergency responder to the contrary, Public Safety officers and the on-call residence hall professional staff will notify the student's emergency contact immediately to provide guidance for the student.

Students who have been transported to the hospital for use of alcohol and other drugs will meet with a Wellness Center staff member. The purpose of the meeting is to help the student gain insight into their experience, become aware of any patterns of behavior, identify risks associated with alcohol and drug abuse, and receive referrals to appropriate services as necessary. The student will be required to participate in an alcohol and other drug education program. Because of the serious threat to health and safety inherent in cases requiring medical transport, the parents or guardians of the student will be notified.

IV. Sanctioning Guidelines

Students' health and safety are the University's first considerations in addressing violations of alcohol and other drugs policies. First-time transports are generally not treated as individual violations of the Conduct Code, unless the students involved in the incident fail to comply with the directives of University officials handling the transport or appear to have committed other acts defined as prohibited conduct. Subsequent transports may result in charges related to interfering with normal University activity.

Students and organizations are expected to act responsibly to protect the welfare of others by seeking immediate medical assistance for those at risk.

Responsible actions by students and student organizations on campus include the following:

1. Immediately seeking medical assistance by notifying the residence hall front desk and/or calling Public Safety at X3636.
2. Cooperating with first responders by providing honest and complete answers to their questions.

Responsible actions by students and student organizations off campus include the following:

1. Immediately seeking medical assistance for students whose lives may be in danger because of alcohol and/or drug intoxication. Medical assistance calls from off campus are to 911.
2. Cooperating with first responders by providing honest and complete answers to their questions.
3. Reporting the medical transport of a student from an off campus location to AU Public Safety at 202-885-3636. This ensures that a transported student will receive the follow-up attention they need when they return to campus.

If a student or student organization is found responsible for misconduct in connection with an incident that includes a medical transport for alcohol and/or drug intoxication, the student's or organization's seeking medical assistance for their fellow student and cooperating with first responders and Public Safety will be considered mitigating factors when sanctions are imposed.

Questions regarding these procedures should be directed to the Office of the Dean of Students, 202-885-3300, 408 Butler Pavilion.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE(S)

This Policy was effective April 2000 and last reviewed October 15, 2015.

V. SIGNATURE, TITLE AND DATE OF APPROVAL

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

This document was approved and signed by

Gail Short Hanson

Vice President of Campus Life

on February 24, 2017.