

FAU Medical Amnesty Policy

Division of Student Affairs
AVP/Dean of Students Office

(A) Policy statement

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) encourages a living and learning environment that promotes the health and safety of all members of the FAU community. Student behavior is expected to comply with Regulation 4.007, the Student Code of Conduct, as well as FAU policies on alcohol (Policy 1.2) and drugs (Policy 1.6). Drug or alcohol consumption, including excessive consumption, consumption of a dangerous substance, or consumption by someone with sensitivity can cause serious physical and neurological harm and can be life-threatening. As such, students are encouraged to make responsible decisions and to seek medical attention should they find themselves or others in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol and/or other drug abuse. Students are also encouraged to seek help for any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate. If a student is so intoxicated that they are unable to be awakened, letting that person “sleep it off” is not a reasonable alternative to getting that person necessary medical help. Students may be hesitant to seek help in such emergencies due to the fear of potential student conduct action.

If medical attention is required, students should immediately call 911.

A (1) student who seeks emergency assistance for themselves, another student, or a friend experiencing an alcohol and/or other drug related emergency, as well as (2) the individual in distress, will not be subject to student conduct action under the FAU Student Code of Conduct (Regulation 4.007), except as otherwise described below.

(B) Purpose of Policy

Florida Atlantic University is committed to promoting a safe and healthy environment for all students. A medical amnesty policy benefits our campus by encouraging students to make responsible decisions in seeking medical attention in serious or life-threatening situations that result from alcohol and/or other drug abuse and in any situation where medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate. This policy seeks to diminish fear of disciplinary action in such situations and to encourage individuals and organizations to seek needed medical attention for students in distress from alcohol and/or drug use.

(C) Procedure

FAU students who needed medical attention as a result of alcohol and/or illegal drug use and are considered for the Medical Amnesty Policy, as determined by the Dean of Students' Office, are required to meet with a staff member at Owls Care Health Promotion. The staff member will complete a multi-session consultation with the student, which may result in recommendations for behavior change and referrals to medical/mental health services if needed. Students who fail to complete the required multi-session consultations, will no longer be eligible for medical amnesty, and may be subject to student conduct action. The availability of medical amnesty for students with repetitive violations will be determined on a case by case basis.

Consistent with Regulation 4.007, if a student is transported to an emergency medical treatment center for intoxication or drug use, the student's parents or guardians may be notified by a telephone call from the Dean of Students Office if it is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

(1) The Medical Amnesty Policy applies to FAU students who initiate and seek assistance and/or medical treatment on behalf of themselves, another student, or a friend.

(2) If a representative of a FAU student organization hosting an event calls for medical assistance, this act of responsibility might mitigate potential Student Conduct Code consequences that could arise against the organization (i.e., the fact that an organization sought help will be favorably considered in potential sanctioning for university policy violations). FAU student organizations involved in an incident must agree to take recommended steps to address concerns. In appropriate situations, as determined in the conduct process, mitigation could result in the requirement of participation in an educational program or educational activities rather than other disciplinary consequences.

(3) This protocol applies only to the FAU Student Code of Conduct (FAU Regulation 4.007), Housing & Residential Life policies, FAU Student Organizations (FAU Regulation 4.006), Fraternity & Sorority Life policies, and other applicable University regulations and policies. Law enforcement agencies, including the University Police Department, may act within their jurisdictions in enforcing the laws enacted by the State of Florida, the United States, or any other locality, state or nation where jurisdiction may be invoked.

(4) The Medical Amnesty Policy applies only to the individual's use of alcohol and/or drugs where medical attention is needed. It does not apply to other prohibited behavior such as illegal distribution of illicit substances, harassment, sexual misconduct, or assault.

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