STAF-005

Parental Notification Regarding Alcohol and Other Drugs

Effective Date Thursday, September 13, 2018

Status Final

Last Revised Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Policy Type Student Affairs

Contact Office Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer (Office of the)

Oversight Executive
Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer

Applies To Academic Division.

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Policy Statement

Reason for Policy

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment. The University has established requirements to educate all students on the risks associated with substance abuse and the illegal use of alcohol or other drugs. In furtherance of its effort to engage students and their families regarding these issues, the University has adopted a policy for parental notification pertaining to the illegal or harmful use of alcohol or other drugs.

Definition of Terms

Terms

Description There are no terms that require definition.

Policy Statement

The University will notify parents of dependent students (for federal tax purposes) when it becomes aware that a University of Virginia student has been arrested for an alcohol- or drug-related violation.

The University strives to educate all students on the risks associated with substance abuse and the illegal use of alcohol or other drugs. Whenever Student Affairs becomes aware that a University of Virginia student has been arrested for an alcohol- or drug-related violation, and the student is a dependent (for federal tax purposes), Student Affairs will notify that student’s parent(s). Violations that trigger notifications under this paragraph include, but are not limited to, driving under the influence, public drunkenness, underage possession of alcohol, and unauthorized possession of controlled substances (illegal drugs).

Furthermore, whenever Student Affairs becomes aware that a University of Virginia student has engaged in a pattern of behavior or a severe incident involving the use of alcohol and/or drugs, and the student is a dependent (for federal tax purposes), Student Affairs will notify that student's parent(s). Violations that trigger notifications under this paragraph include, but are not limited to, frequent or severe episodes of drug use, drunkenness, and/or binge drinking.

The University will make notifications under this policy unless the University, family, or other circumstances make such notifications incompatible with the student's best interests. The University relies on the professional judgment of its faculty and administrators when assessing each student's situation. Students whose family or other circumstances make notification under this policy inappropriate will be referred immediately to the University's professional counseling resources.

When making a notification under this policy, time and circumstances permitting, a professional staff member in Student Affairs ordinarily will encourage the student to make the initial call to his or her parent(s). The staff member then will follow up with a call directly to the student's parent(s).

A notification under this policy will be in addition to the intervention and education programs already offered to students when such infractions are brought to the University's attention. Intervention may include one or more of the following: substance abuse assessment by a trained clinician; psychological assessment by a trained clinician; substance abuse counseling; enrollment in educational programs; and/or sanctions imposed for violations of the University's Standards of Conduct.

A notification under this policy is authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g ("FERPA"), which permits the disclosure of information from education records to parents of dependent students. The University reserves the right in its sole discretion to notify parents of alcohol- or drug-related incidents falling outside this policy to the extent permitted by FERPA or other applicable law.

Related Information

STU-002: Rights of Students at the University of Virginia Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Major Category Student Affairs Policies

Next Scheduled Review Sunday, July 15, 2029

Revision History

Confirmed 7/15/26, 7/6/23; Updated Contact Office, dept 6/23/22.

Supercedes Policy Text

Parental Notification Policy: Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Approved By Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer

Approved Date Thursday, September 13, 2018