

Policy Title: Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty

Senior Team Member: Dr. Frank Gaytan

Division Responsible for Policy: Student Engagement

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

Contact(s): Elizabeth Fedec, AVP and Dean of Students, Title IX Coordinator

Minority Impact Statement: This policy does not have any disproportionate or unique impact on North Park's students or employees who identify as a minority.

Who Should Read the Policy: All students, administrators, faculty, and staff members.

Policy review cycle: Annually

Reason for Policy

Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policy serves to:

- **Encouraging Assistance:** It encourages students to provide aid in emergency situations without hesitation, fear, or concern about potential student conduct and/or disciplinary repercussions. This can be crucial in situations where immediate action is needed to save lives or prevent further harm.
- **Promoting Public Safety:** By removing barriers and offering protections to those who offer assistance, Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policies contribute to overall campus safety. They help create a culture where bystanders are more likely to intervene in emergencies, potentially reducing the severity of injuries or preventing harm.
- **Building Trust and Community Engagement:** Implementing a Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan policy demonstrates the University's commitment to the well-being of its students. It fosters trust between the University and students, as students feel more confident that they can help without facing adverse consequences.
- **Aligns with our Christian distinctive:** Encouraging people to help others in need aligns with compassion and empathy furthers our Christian distinctive. Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policies promotes a culture of caring and mutual assistance.

Scope

As members of this community, students have a responsibility to each other. Students should take active steps to protect the safety and well-being of each member of our community.

This policy refers to isolated incidents only. It does not:

- Excuse or protect those who flagrantly or repeatedly violate University policies and standards.

- Prevent disciplinary action regarding other violations of University policies and standards such as causing or threatening physical harm, sexual abuse, damage to property, harassment, or hazing.
- Prevent action by local and state authorities.

This policy may apply to the person in need of assistance and/or the person requesting immediate medical assistance.

Policy Elements

The Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy has been adopted to encourage students to prioritize health and safety without fear of student conduct repercussions.

Students who seek medical or safety assistance by reporting incidents, such as but not limited to incidents involving drugs, alcohol or sexual violence, will not be charged with violating university policies related to the use or possession of these substances or acts. To be considered for this exemption, the report must be made to one of the following authorities:

- 911
- Residence Life and Housing
- Dean of Students
- Student Care Coordinator
- Campus Safety

Definitions

Educational Meeting: An educational meeting focuses on providing information, campus resources and guidance regarding appropriate behavior, expectations, university policies and consequences of misconduct within the university. An educational meeting's goal is to inform students about university policies and expectations and promote a culture of respect, responsibility, and accountability. Educational meetings aim to help students make positive choices and contribute to a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Student: Any person enrolled in any program at North Park University for any credits, including an audit.

Campus Safety: Any member of the Campus Safety office, including but not limited to professional staff, dispatch and student officers.

Residence Life and Housing: Any member of the Office of Residence Life and Housing, including but not limited to professional staff, resident assistants and desk attendants.

Procedure

If a student requests assistance due to an emergency or immediate need, the University's priority will be to care for the student(s) in need. Once the student(s) have received the care needed, the University will review the situation to determine if the situation meets the requirements of the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policy.

If the University decides the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policy applies, no further student conduct action is taken. However, the University may decide to have an educational meeting with student(s) to review university policies and expectations as well as answer any questions or the concerns that student(s) may have regarding the situation.

If the University decides that the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty policy does not apply, the incident will be referred to the Student Conduct process. Reasons that the policy may not apply are, but not limited to:

- Student(s) flagrantly or repeatedly violates University policies or community standards
- Student(s) actions violate other University policies or community standards, such as causing or threatening physical harm, sexual abuse, damage to property, harassment, or hazing.

The dean of students or designee has the authority to streamline the process in a manner that is in the best interest of the student and/or University.

Once the University is made aware of a Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan incident, the appropriate university staff member completes an incident report using the EARS system. The dean of students or designee will review the incident and determine next steps.

Forms

- EARS Incident Form

Related Laws, Regulations, Statutes, and Policies:

- Student Handbook
 - Student Conduct Process and Community Standards
-

Stakeholder review:

- Legal Review: July 2, 2024
- Senior Team members: June 31, 2024
- DOS Leadership Team: May 31, 2024
- Wellness Team: June 14, 2024
- Student Engagement Leadership Team: June 14, 2024
- Registrar: June 14, 2024, July 23, 2024

Document History:

- Converted and Updated to Policy Template: May 2024