



**Title: Medical Emergency Assistance Policy**

**ID: UA-63**

**Administrative Division: Student Life**

**Unit: STCON – Student Conduct**

**Effective Date: 5/31/2017**

**Contact: Todd Borst – Executive Director**

**Revision Date: 6/1/2018**

## **Purpose:**

The University of Alabama community views the health and safety of our students as a top priority. The Medical Emergency Assistance Policy encourages members of the University community to be accountable, make responsible decisions, and seek medical assistance and treatment when faced with an alcohol or other drug-related potential emergency (including but not limited to alcohol poisoning, or health related complications from other drug use). This policy seeks to diminish fear of disciplinary and conduct sanctions in such situations and to encourage individuals and organizations to seek needed medical attention for students in distress from alcohol or other drug issues.

## **POLICY:**

The Medical Emergency Assistance Policy is part of the University of Alabama's comprehensive approach to reducing the harms and risks associated with alcohol and other drug usage. This policy is implemented by the Office of the Dean of Students in conjunction with their designee within the Office of Student Conduct. The Medical Emergency Assistance Policy applies to students seeking and obtaining medical assistance on their own behalf, students seeking and obtaining medical assistance on the behalf of another student, and student organizations seeking and obtaining medical assistance on behalf of a member or guest.

### **Student in Need of Medical Assistance**

The Medical Emergency Assistance Policy (MEAP) may apply when a student seeks and obtains emergency medical assistance that is (a) related to use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs, (b) does not involve first contacting friends for assistance, and (c) is not first discovered by a University of Alabama employee or public safety official (i.e., UAPD, TPD, faculty, administrative staff, residence hall staff, etc.). Any UA student who seeks and obtains medical assistance on their own behalf may use the Medical Emergency Assistance Policy only once during their matriculation as a student. The availability of the application of this policy for a second incident is at the discretion of the Dean of Students or their designee.

A student seeking or obtaining medical emergency assistance on their own behalf in compliance with this policy will only be eligible for an exemption under this policy when violations of the Code of Student Conduct are related to the use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. However, The University of Alabama reserves the right to refer other types of violations of the Code of Student Conduct, including, but not limited to, disorderly conduct, improper identification (Fake ID), damage to property, distribution of alcohol, distribution of illicit drugs, harassment, hazing, assault, sexual violence, and causing or threatening physical harm, to the Office of Student Conduct.

If the student seeking or obtaining medical assistance has been determined to be eligible for an exemption under this policy by a representative from the Dean of Students, the student will be required to meet with the Dean of Students or their designee to develop a student success plan/agreement outlining appropriate behavioral and education components that maximize the student's personal and academic success. The specific plan/agreement

may include, but is not limited to, behavioral and education elements such as: a Student Success Agreement, enrollment in the MPACT program, Counseling, Assessment, Educational Programming (i.e., AlcoholEDU for Sanctions, Alcohol Education Workshop, and Community Involvement) and a parental notification letter for students under the age of 21.

Upon the successful completion of a designated program, the Dean of Students or their designee grants the student a medical emergency assistance exemption. Should the student fail to comply with or successfully complete the University designated program/agreement set forth by the Dean of Students or their designee, then the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further action.

### **Student Seeking Medical Assistance for Another Student**

Students who (a) seek medical emergency assistance on behalf of another student experiencing a medical emergency related to use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs and (b) do not participate in providing or distributing the alcohol and/or illicit drugs that triggered the medical emergency may not be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for violations of the Code of Student Conduct relating to use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. However, any UA students who seek and obtain emergency medical assistance on the behalf of another student are eligible to benefit from this policy more than once.

A student seeking or obtaining medical emergency assistance on behalf of another student in compliance with this policy will only be eligible for an exemption when violations of the Code of Student Conduct during the incident in question are related to the use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. However, the University of Alabama reserves the right to refer other types of violations of the Code of Student Conduct, including, but not limited to, disorderly conduct, improper identification (Fake ID), damage to property, distribution of alcohol, distribution of illicit drugs, harassment, hazing, assault, sexual violence, and causing or threatening physical harm, to the Office of Student Conduct.

If the student seeking or obtaining medical assistance on behalf of another student has been determined to be eligible for an exemption under this policy by a representative from the Dean of Students or their designee, the student may be required to meet with the Dean of Students or their designee to develop a student success plan/agreement depending upon their involvement in the incident.

### **Student Organizations Seeking Medical Assistance**

Student organizations should promptly seek medical assistance for their members or guests when any potential health risk is observed, including medical emergencies related to the use, consumption, or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. Any UA student organization that seeks and obtains emergency on behalf of their members or guests is eligible to benefit from this policy more than once.

A student organization that seeks immediate medical assistance from appropriate sources may be eligible for mitigation of charges related to organizational violations of The University of Alabama Social Event Guidelines, The University of Alabama Social Alcohol Policy, or the Code of Student Conduct related to alcohol and/or other drugs, provided that the organization completes any educational programming or additional requirements by the Office of the Dean of Students or his/her designee. However, the student organization can and may be held accountable for any other violations of the Code of Student Conduct related to the incident (e.g., endangering the health and safety of others, covered smoke detectors, etc.) and may be subject to further disciplinary action for violation of risk management programs, substance abuse policies and other rules.

### **Law Enforcement and Legal Ramifications**

The Medical Emergency Assistance Policy ONLY applies to violations of The University of Alabama Code of Student Conduct. This policy only provides a mechanism for appropriate University officials to exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis to determine whether to grant an exemption from violations of The University of Alabama Code of Student Conduct. Law enforcement agencies enforcing the laws enacted by the State of Alabama within their jurisdiction, including the University of Alabama Police Department, are not bound by this policy. The University cannot grant an exemption or amnesty for criminal, civil, or other legal consequences for violations of Federal, State, or Local law.

### **Effects of Policy**

This policy applies to any UA student who is a victim and/or witness of any act of sexual misconduct that has also engaged in underage use/consumption or possession of alcohol and/or illicit drugs.

The Office of the Dean of Students or their designee reserves the right to contact any student to discuss an incident whether or not The University of Alabama Medical Emergency Assistance Policy applies to a particular student or organization.

The University reserves the right to adjudicate any case in which the violations are deemed by University officials to be significant, which includes, but is not limited to, referring the case to the Office of Student Conduct. Finally, the policy may not be inappropriately or disingenuously used in an effort to avoid responsibility and any effort to do so may subject the individual or entity to conduct charges.

### **Scope (Policy applies to the following audience):**

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Contractors
- Volunteers
- Other – Specify: Enter other scope description here.

### **Definitions, Procedures, and/or References:**

#### **Definitions:**

The term “**student**” includes anyone admitted to the University and registered for, taking, or pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies or courses at the University, both full-time and part-time, as well as persons attending classes on campus or off-campus. Person who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University as well as persons participating in orientation are considered “students.”

The term “**student organization**” or “**organization**” means any group of students that has complied with the University’s requirements for registration as a student organization.

### **Approved by:**