

Medical Amnesty Guideline

Purpose: To send a clear message to students that their health and safety is of primary importance and the consideration of their welfare and that of others should not be hindered for fear of sanctions through the university office responsible for student conduct. In keeping with this premise of health and safety being of foremost importance, this guideline should not be viewed as the University's sanctioning or otherwise condoning violations of the Student Code of Conduct or local, state and federal laws.

The Valdosta State University's (VSU) Medical Amnesty Guideline (MAG) is offered to students who become aware of a medical emergency involving suspected alcohol poisoning or drug over-dose and seek emergency assistance on that student(s) behalf. The student(s) making the notification of a suspected medical emergency and the victim(s) will be exempt from sanctioning through the Student Conduct Office for violations of the Student Code of Conduct's Substance Abuse Policy as referenced in the Student Handbook. Prosecution of individuals under local, state or federal laws would be at the discretion of appropriated officials of the applicable jurisdiction.

Crime Victim: If a victim of a crime is suspected of having used alcohol and/or drugs, amnesty would be extended to the victim and the person seeking assistance and he/she will be exempt from sanctioning through the Student Conduct Office for violations of the Student Code of Conduct's Substance Abuse Policy as referenced in the Student Handbook. Prosecution of individuals under local, state or federal laws would be at the discretion of appropriated officials of the applicable jurisdiction.

Any student that believes s/he has been a victim of sexual assault is encouraged to notify the VSU University Police (229-259-5555 or 911), VSU Counseling Center (229-333-5940), or The Haven Rape Crisis Center (229-244-4477).

Mandatory follow-up: All identified individuals present during the referral incident that are known or suspected of having consumed alcohol or drugs illegally or to a hazardous level will undergo a substance abuse assessment through VSU's Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education and will be required to comply with the recommendations from the assessment. Failure to do so would subject the individual(s) to applicable sanctions through the Student Conduct Office. If the referral incident was sponsored by a campus organization, substance abuse education will be mandated for all members of the organization.

Repeated Incidents: If an individual or campus organization is involved in multiple calls for assistance in the same academic year a greater level of intervention will be required, including parental notification for individuals under age 21, (in accordance with the Parental Notification Policy and made pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Family Act). VSU's Student Life Office would also be informed of campus organizations' guideline violations.