

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN 2012-2014

11.1.13. Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy

It is in the best interest of students' welfare that persons who have alcohol or other drug-related emergencies be brought to the attention of medical personnel. Furthermore, Oglethorpe University recognizes that the potential for disciplinary action for these incidents may act as a barrier to students who would otherwise seek medical assistance themselves or for other students. It is for these reasons that the University maintains a medical amnesty (sometimes referred to as Good Samaritan) protocol. In these incidents, the primary concern is the well-being, health, and safety of students.

Under this policy, students seeking medical assistance during an alcohol or other drug-related emergency will not face formal disciplinary action by the office of campus life for the mere possession or use of alcohol or drugs. The sole reason for the student's intoxication being discovered by University personnel must be due to medical care being sought by the affected student. Additionally, student(s) or a student organization seeking medical assistance for another person during an alcohol or other drug-related emergency will not face formal conduct action for the mere possession or use of alcohol or drugs. Medical amnesty applies only to alcohol or other drug-related medical emergencies and students who seek medical amnesty may be held responsible for violating other policies, including but not limited to assault, property damage, or distribution of illicit substances. In cases where an individual or organization fails to seek emergency medical assistance when risk of harm is clearly indicated, formal disciplinary action may be taken against the individual(s) or organization.

In order to qualify for medical amnesty, the student must obtain medical attention at the time of the incident and must meet with a representative from the office of campus life within 5 days of the incident and agree to comply with the conditions set forth by the representative. Students and organizations that assist those in need may also have to meet certain conditions for medical amnesty. If these conditions are met, there will be no conduct case and the incident will not become part of the student's or organizational record. If the student or organization does not follow these stipulations, qualifications for medical amnesty are considered not met and the student or organization is subject to the conduct process as outlined in the code of student conduct. It is the expectation of the office of campus life that a student use the medical amnesty policy once; it is an opportunity for a student to learn from a mistake and avoid such mistakes in the future. Therefore, past the first incident, the availability of medical amnesty to the student is at the discretion of the office of campus life. Students and organizations that help others seek medical assistance are not limited to one use of the medical amnesty policy, as they should always feel empowered to help those in need.

It is important to be aware that Oglethorpe University enforces federal, state and local laws prohibiting the possession and use of alcoholic beverages and drugs. Medical amnesty applies only to the Oglethorpe University code of student conduct and does not in any way prohibit law enforcement personnel from enforcing federal, state, or local laws.