

Student Affairs Policy STAF 6.29

This policy outlines how the University may respond to any disturbances by a student that may be related to a mental health concern.

Definition of Disturbances Related to Mental Health Concerns The following are examples of some of the disturbances that may be covered by this policy. They include, but are not limited to:

Self-injurious behaviors: Overt, self-injurious physical behaviors (e.g. actions indicating a suicide attempt, self-inflicted wounds, ingestion of toxic substances, overdoses of prescribed medicines).

Other behaviors:

- Threats of self-injurious behavior;
- Threats of damage to property or other persons;
- Interference with the normal operations or activities of the University, its students, faculty, and staff;
- Damage to property of the University, its students, faculty, and staff;
- Acts indicating that the student is out of contact with reality and/or unaware of the consequences of his/her actions.

Procedures for Handling Disturbances Related to Mental Health Concerns

The Office of Student Judicial Programs, when made aware of such behaviors, will work with the Counseling and Human Development Center, University Housing, and any other offices involved or necessary to determine the best course of action for the University and the involved students according to the procedures outlined in the Behavioral Intervention Team protocol. This protocol may be found at www.sc.edu/BIT.

This action may include a student's immediate removal from the University or from University Housing. The University, through the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs or a designee, may additionally require a student to engage in a cooperative, committed relationship with a counselor, the University Psychiatrist, or with an appropriate outside counseling or psychiatric agency before continuing as a student at the University.

The University may also require that a student provide information from an outside counselor, counseling agency, or psychiatrist indicating the student's ability to continue at the University to the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs or a designee and the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center or a designee. The Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs or a designee and the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center or a designee will make a determination regarding the student's status.

Any other departments, faculty, and staff determined to have a "need to know" will be notified by the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs, the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center, or a designee of either. Examples of such offices/departments/staff with a "need to know" include, but are not limited to: University Housing, the Office of Student Judicial Programs, the Student Disability Services Office, Student Health Services, appropriate medical personnel, the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, the International Programs for Students office, Law Enforcement and Safety, USCPD, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and the Department of Student Life.

Additionally, if it is determined by the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center, the University Psychiatrist, or another mental health professional that contacting the family or guardian is appropriate, they may do so in concert with the Vice President for Student Affairs.

In all cases, the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs and the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center, or their designees, will notify the student as soon as is reasonably possible regarding their decisions; and the student will be given an opportunity to speak with a counselor or mental health professional as soon as reasonably possible.

Emergency Removal

In cases determined to warrant immediate action, the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs or a designee and the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center, the University Psychiatrist, or a designee shall contact the Vice President for Student Affairs to initiate an emergency removal from the University.

Appeal

Should a student wish to appeal a decision of the Assistant Vice Provost of Judicial Affairs and/or the Director of the Counseling and Human Development Center, the appeal must be made in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs within five (5) University business days of the receipt of the decision. All decisions sent to the student via U.S. mail will be considered received in three (3) business days. The decision of Vice President for Student Affairs is the University's final decision.