

# GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY @ SU

Southwestern University's Good Samaritan Policy encourages students to seek medical attention during an alcohol or drug-related emergency, by removing the threat of disciplinary action by Southwestern University for possession of alcohol and/or drugs or the overuse of drugs and/or alcohol. If a student experiences a medical emergency, that student, or the first person who calls for help on his/her behalf, and/or the student organization or group hosting the event that calls for help, can do so without fear of disciplinary action. Southwestern's policy emphasizes that students should first worry about their health and the health and safety of others.

The purpose of the Good Samaritan Policy is to reduce barriers to seeking assistance by granting amnesty from formal university disciplinary action related to alcohol use for (1) the intoxicated individual and (2) the person who calls for help. The Good Samaritan Policy states that: "Whenever a student assists an intoxicated person by calling for assistance, neither the intoxicated individual nor the individual who assists will be subject to formal university disciplinary actions for (1) being intoxicated or (2) having provided that person alcohol. In order for this protocol to apply, the intoxicated student(s) and the caller and organization must agree to timely completion of recommended alcohol education activities. An assessment, and/or treatment, depending on the level of concern for student health and safety, may be necessary for the intoxicated student.

The amnesty created by the Good Samaritan Policy extends only to disciplinary actions by Southwestern University and cannot extend to any civil or criminal legal proceeding to which a person or organization may be exposed by the laws of the State of Texas. Similarly, the Good Samaritan Policy does not modify or affect any so-called "Good Samaritan" laws of the State of Texas. Legal issues aside, in a medical emergency, the only consideration should be the health and safety of those at risk.

## **Individual Amnesty from University Disciplinary Action**

Individual amnesty is the most limited level of protection. This level protects individuals, who are seeking medical attention for themselves as a result of an illegal action, from University disciplinary action. Individual amnesty does not extend to organizations that person may be a part of or peers also present with the individual at that time.

## **Caller Amnesty from University Disciplinary Action**

This policy builds on individual amnesty for disciplinary action and extends to the person first calling for help for the person or persons in need of medical attention. As with the individual amnesty, though, this does not provide protection from legal prosecution for an organization to which the students belong or are in attendance.

## **Organizational Amnesty from University Disciplinary Action**

This protects from Southwestern University disciplinary action an organization that is related to the event at which medical attention is sought as a result of an illegal action. Organizational amnesty would extend liability protection to fraternities, sororities, clubs and other social venues that may have people at their location who are under the influence of certain intoxicants.