



Illegal Drug & Substance Abuse Policy - 2011

RESIDENCE LIFE

PREAMBLE

Residence Life -University of Guelph recognizes that abiding by federal statutes pertaining to illegal drugs/drug substances is ultimately the responsibility of the individual. As a department that is responsible for guiding residents to form a nurturing and respectful community, Residence Life has created this Policy to encourage awareness for the laws of the land surrounding illegal drugs and controlled substances in an effort to be proactive in preventing actions detrimental to the residents and the larger university community.

INTENT

The goals of this policy are as follows:

_____ To promote lawful self-responsibility pertaining to illegal drugs and controlled substances in residence.

To discourage high-risk drug-related practices.

To support federal laws regarding illegal drug substances.

To ensure the safety of residents and their guests.

To ensure community and individual wellness in residence.

SCOPE

The *Illegal Drug & Substance Abuse Policy* applies to all individuals living in residence. Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with all regulations surrounding illegal drug substances as per the laws of the land and Residence Life. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests, and it is their responsibility to inform guests of these regulations.

Impairment due to drug use and/or substance abuse will not be considered an excuse, reason, or rationale for unacceptable behaviour or violations of the *Residence Community Living Standards*. *Choices made in a residence environment can impact an entire community and as such any involvement, whether direct or indirect, in any illegal drug or substance related activity is prohibited. An individual who is present when a drug violation occurs may be held responsible, regardless of whether or not the drugs or drug paraphernalia are in their use or physical possession. Residents are responsible for reporting any illegal activities to Residence Life Staff.*

POLICY

Definitions

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs are defined as any drug that has been deemed illegal in any quantity by the federal laws of the land. These drugs include but are not limited to marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, LSD, magic mushrooms, etc.

Controlled Substances

For the purpose of this policy a controlled substance is defined as any drug or chemical whose use is regulated by the government such as prescription medications.

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is defined as the misuse of a substance or the use of a substance to an extent deemed detrimental to the user, to others, or to the community at large. For the purpose of this policy, a substance may also include inhalants and other non-prescription drugs.

Trafficking

Trafficking is defined as the transportation, delivery, distribution, manufacturing, selling, soliciting, giving, or exchange of any illegal drugs or controlled substances.

Possession

Drug possession is defined as being the intentional owner of illegal drugs or controlled substances, whether on your person or within your control, for example, keeping substances in your clothing or your residence room.

Use

Use is defined as consuming, injecting, absorbing, and/or inhaling any illegal drugs or controlled substances.

Standard of Proof

Residents are reminded that the Standard of Proof required by Residence Life is the balance of probabilities as outlined in the *Residence Community Living Standards*. The standard of proof has been met, if, at the conclusion of a student conduct meeting, based on all credible information Residence Staff/personnel involved believe that the incident reported probably occurred (i.e. the information shows it is more likely than not, to have occurred).

Within the context of the *Illegal Drug and Substance Abuse Policy*, the standard of proof may be met if one or more of the following are present in residence rooms, common areas or the grounds surrounding residence facilities:

- I. evidence of drug traces,
- II. the smell of a prohibited substance on your person or in an area,
- III. items used in an attempt to remove or mask the smell,
- IV. drug paraphernalia,
- V. delayed response in opening your door.

Suspicion

For the purpose of this policy, drug suspicion will be defined as specific and direct observations regarding the physical surroundings or the behaviour, speech or odour of an individual or the surroundings.

Circumstances that bring addiction, dependency, recreational or other inappropriate use of illegal drugs and substances to the attention of the Residence Life Staff will prompt an investigation, a call to the Ontario Provincial Police and/or sanctions.

Paraphernalia

Residence Life reserves the right to confiscate drug/substance related paraphernalia deemed to be associated with the use or trafficking of illegal drugs and substances. Drug paraphernalia is defined as equipment or materials that are used to produce, conceal and consume illegal drugs or substances. Examples of drug paraphernalia include bongos, pipes, scales, and roach clips.

Illegal Drugs

All individuals are prohibited from trafficking, possessing and/or using any illegal drugs of any quantity in residence or on the grounds surrounding residence facilities.

Substance Abuse

Excessive use or reliance on controlled substances, illegal drugs, non-prescription substances and/or inhalants can create difficult social and behavioural issues that compromise residence life. Residence Life strives to support students and the rights of all residents as outlined in the *Residence Community Living Standards*. Residents showing signs of substance abuse or those seeking assistance will be referred to campus and community partners. This does not exempt individuals from facing disciplinary outcomes.

Disciplinary Outcomes

The Residence Life Staff, at their discretion, may call the Ontario Provincial Police for any drug related incidents.

Sanctions will vary depending on the incident and range from educational sanctions, punitive sanctions and eviction. Violations of the *Illegal Drug and Substance Abuse Policy* are considered Level 3 Offences as outlined in the *Residence Community Living Standards*.

Individuals possessing a significant amount of illegal drugs/controlled substances (10 grams or more) and/or determined to be trafficking may be immediately evicted (within 24 hours) from residence at the discretion of the Supervisor of Residence Life. Criminal charges may be applied. Residence Life reserves the right to forward a student's case to the University of Guelph-Kemptville Campus Judicial Committee

