

TRINITY COLLEGE MEDICAL AMNESTY AND GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY

Trinity College values the general welfare of our students. We recognize and acknowledge that their daily decisions impact their success both in and out of the classroom. As a result, we promote a community of care, one in which students are encouraged to be attentive to the wellness, health, and safety of Trinity community members in addition to their own.

In an effort to further promote a community of care, the college encourages bystanders, and when possible, students who are facing a medical and/or mental health crisis due to the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, to take responsible action and seek immediate assistance. Oftentimes students may have alcohol poisoning, with symptoms including unconsciousness or unresponsiveness, disorientation or confusion, slow breathing, vomiting or choking, and cold or pale skin. In these cases, students are encouraged to seek assistance from Campus Safety, a resident assistant, an area coordinator, or other college administrators without fear of disciplinary action as outlined in Trinity's Drug Use and Alcohol Provision and Use policies. Under appropriate circumstances, as described in the amnesty policies below, college sanctions regarding alcohol and drug use may not apply.

Medical Amnesty: Under the medical amnesty policy, a student who is experiencing a physical and/or mental health crisis due to the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs and who seeks immediate medical and mental health assistance may not be subject to disciplinary action under the college's Drug Use and Alcohol Provision and Use policies. The Dean of Students Office will approach repeated incidents with a higher degree of concern and a high level of intervention.

Good Samaritan Amnesty: Under the Good Samaritan amnesty policy, bystanders (individual students, teams, student groups, or student organizations) who proactively and in good faith seek immediate medical and mental health assistance for a student experiencing a physical and/or mental health crisis due to the consumption of alcohol or other drugs may not be subject to disciplinary actions regarding their own violation of the college's Drug Use and Alcohol Provision and Use policies. A team's, student group's, or student organization's willingness to seek medical and/or mental health assistance for a member or guest will be viewed as a mitigating factor in determining whether a sanction is warranted for violation of other college policies.

Once reported, all alcohol and drug paraphernalia will be confiscated and will not be returned to the individuals involved under these policies. All involved parties will be recorded by Campus Security as witnesses, and the information recorded will be provided to the Dean of Students Office, who then will determine whether either policy applies to the student(s) involved. The Dean of Students Office determines in all cases if the amnesty policies apply.

Students who are reported to the Dean of Students Office as having experienced a medical or mental health crisis due to alcohol and/or drugs will be referred to an educational program, and, in some cases, parental notification will occur. Educational programs provide students with an opportunity to discuss corrective measures around their decisions related to alcohol and/or drugs. Students who do not complete the educational program recommendations may face disciplinary action consistent with the college's Drug Use and Alcohol Provision and Use policies.

The amnesty policies do not prevent action by the Hartford Police Department or other law enforcement personnel. Students are expected to abide by college policies, Connecticut state laws,

and federal laws. Furthermore, the amnesty policies do not protect individual students, teams, student groups, or student organizations who:

- Are found in violation of additional college policies including but not limited to those that address assault, harassment, sexual misconduct, hazing, vandalism, driving under the influence, property damage, and/or distribution of illicit substances.
- Failed to or interfered with the attempts or abilities of others to seek medical or mental health assistance for the person in need.
- Intentionally placed the wellness, health, and safety of the student needing medical or mental health assistance at risk (e.g., forced consumption, unknown substances given to a student against their will or without their knowledge, etc.).

The amnesty policies apply only to sanctions given by the Dean of Students Office. Athletic teams and other Trinity organizations may develop their own rules about alcohol and drug use, and consequences of violations may result in sanctions to participate on those teams or in those organizations. Students should check with athletic coaches and organization leaders regarding their own rules on alcohol and drug use. However, if an athletic coach or Trinity College organization leader seeks to impose sanctions on a student who has provided a report under the amnesty policies, the coach or organization leader should first consult with the Dean of Students Office about whether following the policies might be a mitigating circumstance affecting the sanction.

Creation of the amnesty policies was a collaborative effort of Inter-Greek Council, Student Government Association, and the Dean of Students Office. Input was solicited from the larger campus community, and amnesty policies from NESCAC peer institutions (Colby College, Hamilton College, and Amherst College) were reviewed.

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