

## SUICIDE ATTEMPTS OR GESTURES

**Section:** Safety and Security

**Policy:** University Housing personnel will respond quickly and appropriately to residents and staff who make suicide attempts or gestures.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines regarding addressing situations involving suicide attempts or gestures.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all staff.

**Procedure:**

- I. After assessing the situation, staff must take the following steps:
  - A. Whenever a staff member becomes aware of a resident who may need immediate medical attention (such as an individual being incoherent, unconscious, or having trouble breathing, etc.) the staff member should notify UGA Police at 706-542-2200 or 911 immediately.
  - B. The professional staff on call should be involved in all situations involving suicidal attempts and gestures. Undergraduate staff should inform the staff member on call immediately.
  - C. Staff will ensure that the resident who made the attempt or gesture is in a safe location. Staff should attempt to alleviate problems and concerns in the immediate vicinity, if needed, such as calming students down. Residents not involved in the incident should not be permitted to congregate or gather around the resident needing assistance.
  - D. Staff will speak with the student making the gesture. Staff should not place themselves in any danger. If a resident is an immediate threat to themselves or to others, staff members must notify UGA Police immediately.
  - E. Staff members should never leave an individual needing assistance in the care of friends and never accept responsibility for the care of such a person themselves.
  - F. Staff members should never transport residents in their personal vehicles.
  - G. Professional staff should attempt to talk with the resident needing assistance. In talking with the resident, staff should attempt to gain information about whether or not the resident has a plan to harm themselves. Staff should share this information with Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) staff.
    1. Consult with CAPS. After hours, contact UGA PD to reach the on-call CAPS professional.
    2. Work with the CAPS staff, assistant director and associate directors of residential programs and services to determine appropriate follow-up with the resident.
  - H. Utilize the protocol outlined in "consulting up." Staff members involved should notify the associate directors, director of residential programs and services and the executive director as soon as possible.

- I. Through communication with the associate director, staff will be advised on appropriate communication. All information is considered confidential.
- J. Staff will document the incident in Advocate immediately. Include the police report number on the documentation where applicable.
- K. Staff will follow up with students and staff potentially impacted by the attempt or gesture and document follow-up in Advocate. The residence hall director of the community should promote the incident to CARE in Advocate as soon as possible.

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