

HOUSING AND UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA POLICE

Section: Safety and Security

Policy: All staff members are expected to cooperate with University of Georgia Police Department (UGAPD).

Purpose: UGAPD's mission to provide law enforcement and emergency assistance to the campus community is closely aligned with University Housing's objective to provide safe and secure residential communities. Thus, this policy provides guidelines for housing personnel when working with UGAPD.

Scope: This policy applies to all University Housing spaces and staff.

Procedure:

- I. UGAPD access to buildings: UGAPD is welcome in campus residences at any time. Their presence should be encouraged and welcomed by housing staff. UGAPD may inform housing staff about the reason for their visit, but they are not required to do so. Housing facilities are campus buildings, and UGAPD is free to enter public areas (non-student (rooms/apartments) in order to conduct business, familiarize themselves with facilities, or to make their presence known as an important part of university staff concerned with safety and security. University Housing staff may offer to accompany officers, but it is not required.

- II. Entry into residential units: Housing staff and UGAPD officers are limited in the circumstances by which they can enter student rooms and apartments. Housing staff and UGAPD officers should not enter student rooms or apartments under circumstances other than those outlined below, as entry into residential units under different circumstances could be a violation of students' rights.

University Housing staff and UGAPD officers may enter when:

- The room or apartment is vacant
 - Invited or permitted to enter by the resident(s)
 - For housing staff, this includes maintenance requested by a resident
 - Ample prior warning has been given about inspections for custodial, maintenance or safety reasons
 - UGAPD are in possession of a valid search warrant
 - There is an emergency where housing staff have reason to believe entry may be necessary for life safety reasons (e.g., smoke coming from under a door or residents not responding even with loud music playing)
 - For UGAPD, police may enter with or without consent when they have sufficient legal reason to believe that entry is reasonably necessary to protect life or property or to prevent the destruction of evidence
- III. Defer to the judgement of officers: It is important to note police officers have the right to exercise judgment following strict guidelines set forth for their use and the protection of individual rights. Staff members should defer to the judgment of officers in police matters. If there are questions about the proper action of officers, they can be raised by residents and/or staff after the fact.

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