



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY®

Beau's Law Policy regarding Notification of Parent, Guardian, or Emergency Contact for Alcohol and Controlled Substance Violations

Effective date: July 1, 2026

I. Introduction:

The State University of New York College of Optometry (College) is committed to protecting student health and safety while respecting student privacy.

In accordance with FERPA and New York State Education Law §6438-d (Beau's Law), the College maintains the following policy regarding when a parent, guardian, or designated emergency contact may be notified if a student under the age of 21 is involved in certain alcohol or controlled substance-related incidents.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote student health and safety;
- Ensure transparency regarding notification practices; and
- Clarify how the College exercises its discretion under FERPA and applicable New York State law.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all students who are:

- Under the age of 21;
- Enrolled at the College; and
- Involved in an alcohol or controlled substance-related incident, whether occurring on or off campus.

III. Policy Statement

A parent, guardian, or emergency contact may be notified when a student under the age of 21 is involved in one or more of the following scenarios:

- Violations of institutional rules or policies related to the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance;

- Violations of federal, state, or local laws involving alcohol or controlled substances; and
- Alcohol or controlled substance-related medical emergencies, including:
 - Hospitalization;
 - Overdose; or
 - Other situations presenting a serious risk to the student's health or safety.

Notification decisions shall be made by authorized institutional offices and will be guided by considerations of student health, safety, and welfare, as well as compliance with applicable federal and state laws.

IV. Notification Authority and Process

A. Notification determinations shall be made only by the Office of Student Affairs or after, consultation with the Office of Student Affairs, by University Police, the College Mental Health Counselor, or the Office of General Counsel.

B. Individual faculty or staff members are not permitted to make notification under this Policy, unless specifically authorized by the President, but should report violations to the Office of Student Affairs or University Police, as appropriate.

C. Notification decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the totality of the circumstances.

D. Student Notification: When feasible and appropriate, students will be informed that a parent, guardian, or emergency contact has been or may be notified, unless such notification would compromise health or safety or interfere with an ongoing investigation.

E. Confidentiality and Privacy: All notifications under this policy shall be handled with sensitivity and respect for student privacy. Information shared shall be limited to what is necessary to address the health, safety, or welfare concerns at issue. All disclosures made pursuant to this policy shall be documented.

V. Training and Awareness

The College will include training regarding this Policy in its annual compliance training module and will ensure that training is also timely provided to new employees

VI. Federal and State Law Landscape

FERPA permits institutions of higher education to disclose personally identifiable information without consent *if* there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of the student or others, and the disclosure is to parties who need to know to respond.

Consistent with FERPA's above health and safety exception, Beau's Law requires institutions to publicly display their policy for contacting the parent(s), guardian(s), or emergency contact(s) of a student under the age of 21 of a violation regarding the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

VII. Questions

Questions regarding this policy or its implementation should be directed to:

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