

**The McClintock Center
For
Counseling and Psychological Services**

**Procedures for
Return to Residence and Campus Life after a Psychological
Hospitalization**

In order to best assist a hospitalized student's readjustment to residence and campus life, keeping that student's and other residents' well-being in mind, the following is the policy of Drew University. And, these procedures must be followed before a student returns to residence.

1. When a student is brought to the hospital, s/he will be assessed by a trained professional in Crisis Intervention. The professional, sometimes in conjunction with a psychiatrist, will determine whether or not the student is in danger of harming him/herself (or others). Based on this assessment, the student will or will not be hospitalized.
2. If a student is transported to the hospital for any suicidal gesture, ideation, statements, etc., the **student's parents will be notified** by the Dean of Campus Life and Student Affairs. The student might also want to contact his/her parents from Crisis Intervention.
3. If the student is **not** hospitalized, it is because the student has been assessed as not suicidal or not harmful to him/herself or others. The student will return to campus.

Since parents have been notified, release should be to the student's parent/guardian. If parent/guardian is not available, Public Safety should be called (x3379) to arrange transport of the student back to campus. Public Safety is to notify the RD that the student has returned to campus.

4. The student and parents will meet with the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PSs) the day of discharge or the next day, depending on time of discharge. They will also make arrangements to meet with the Dean of Campus Affairs and Student Life.

The purpose for these meetings is to assure, to the best of our ability, that the student has adequate support on campus. Even if the student has an off-campus psychiatrist and/or psychologist or therapist, the student will still meet with the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (or other counselor in the department). The student will then have a minimum of three sessions with one of our counselors.

5. If the student is hospitalized, it's because the crisis professional (and psychiatrist) believes that the student **is** in danger of harming him/herself (or others). **Parents will be notified** by the Dean of Campus Life and Student Affairs. But, the student can also call his/her parents. Hospital stay usually ranges from two days to a week. The student

should sign a release allowing the hospital to have contact with Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PSs).

6. If the student has been hospitalized, before the student can return to campus, the student must do the following:

- Provide documentation from the hospital to Counseling and Psychological Services stating that, in the treating psychiatrist's and clinician's opinions the student is no longer in danger of harming him/herself (or others) and is ready to return to residence and campus life.
- Provide documentation from an outside clinician (psychiatrist and/or psychologist), who has assessed the student, stating that, in their opinion, the student is not harmful to him/herself (or others) and is ready to return to residence and campus life.
- Make an appointment with the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (or other counselor in C&PSs) to determine whether or not the student feels ready to return to campus and whether or not the student will have adequate support on campus. A parent/guardian must also be present at this meeting.
- Arrange to meet with the Dean of Campus Life and Student Affairs after the meeting with the Director of C&PSs. The Dean, after input from a variety of sources, makes the final decision about whether or not a student can return to residence, classes, and/or campus life.

7. If it has been determined that the student can return to residence and campus life, the student will follow a prescribed treatment as determined by the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (or other counselor on campus). This treatment plan will include a minimum of three mandatory counseling sessions with the Director or other counselor, whether or not the student is in private therapy with an outside provider. Then the Director or counselor, with the student, will decide the next course of action.

These procedures are in place in an effort to safeguard primarily the hospitalized student but, also, other students who may have been distressed or otherwise affected by the behavior of the hospitalized student. In this way, we hope to create a campus environment that is safe and conducive for all students to achieve their personal and academic goals.