

# Medical Emergency Assistance Pilot Program FAQ's

## **MEA Philosophy**

*“I will be a responsible member of the OHIO Community.”*

- The health and safety of the members of the Ohio University community is of primary concern.
- Students need to seek immediate medical attention for themselves or others when someone's health and/or safety is at risk.
- Students may be reluctant to seek assistance for themselves or others for fear of facing judicial charges.
- Ohio University wants to remove the perceived barriers that prevent students from seeking immediate medical attention.

## **Why has Ohio University established a Medical Emergency Assistance (MEA) Program?**

The MEA program is part of Ohio University's comprehensive environmental approach to address high-risk behaviors.

During the fall of 2007 Student Senate passed a resolution supporting the need for the creation of an MEA program.

It has been designed for the student who is concerned for the well-being of a fellow student suffering from an alcohol or drug related medical emergency.

MEA enables Ohio University to more effectively address the issue of civility and good citizenship with our students. Students are encouraged to come to the aid of fellow students who are suffering a medical emergency.

## **Does this mean that Ohio University encourages high-risk drinking?**

No: Ohio University recognizes that students sometimes make high-risk choices about the use of alcohol and other drugs. If a medical emergency is the result of the high-risk choice, the university wants the student to get the required medical attention without fear of “getting in trouble” with the university's judicial system.

## **What does MEA provide?**

A Medical Emergency Assistance Program would allow a student experiencing an alcohol or other drug overdose to receive medical attention without judicial charge. It would also remove judicial charges for those who assisted the student in need if they had been in violation of an alcohol or drug policy.

## **How will MEA support current environmental strategies to reduce high-risk drinking?**

According to a recent survey, 94% of students surveyed said that they would not call for help in a medical emergency involving alcohol or other drugs. The students experiencing these emergencies did not receive any type of interventions. MEA will provide appropriate

interventions to students experiencing medical emergencies, caringly confronting their high-risk behaviors.

**Which violations will MEA cover?**

A-3 (harm to self) alcohol and other drug medical emergencies.

**How does MEA relate to the Student Code of Conduct?**

MEA applies only to alcohol and other drug medical emergencies but does not apply to other prohibited conduct such as assault, property damage and distribution of illicit substances. If other prohibited conduct occurs the student will be held responsible for those violations.

**Does MEA provide protection from any legal consequences?**

NO: MEA will not provide protection from legal consequences of underage/excessive drinking, illegal drug use and the misuse of prescription drugs.

**Who decides if a student is covered by MEA?**

The Director of University Judiciaries will decide whether or not a student is covered by MEA in lieu of facing formal university disciplinary action.

**What are the stipulations?**

The Director of University Judiciaries will allow MEA to cover a student when the student:

1. has received emergency medical treatment as a result of an episode of alcohol or other drug abuse, and
2. has not previously been covered by MEA or,
3. has called to assist a fellow student in need of medical attention

**How many times can MEA be used?**

Once. If a student has a second high-risk situation they will face judicial charges.

Students calling for help or assisting in a high-risk situation, even if they are in violation of an alcohol or drug policy, may use MEA multiple times. MEA will not protect against other violations that have been documented.

**If MEA is granted will the student have any responsibility?**

YES,

In order to successfully complete MEA, students must:

1. Comply with any and all recommendations for educational interventions;
2. Complete an appropriate alcohol or other drug intervention program through Counseling and Psychological Services;
3. Pay a \$100 fee to cover the cost of the appropriate alcohol or other drug intervention program.

**What happens if the student fails to complete the intervention?**

Students who fail to successfully complete MEA will face university judicial charges for the incident that prompted their admission to program.