



Memo To: GHD staff and residence life response personnel
From: Mark Bauman
Re: SOP – intoxicated students unwilling to seek medical treatment
Date: October 17, 2007

This SOP is intended to clarify the procedures to be used when addressing a highly intoxicated student who is unwilling to seek medical treatment. This SOP was drafted and reviewed by residence life management and University Police.

Presently, BU does not have a certain PBT level where, if exceeded, a student is automatically taken to the hospital. The decision to take someone to the hospital is therefore based on a number of factors, including:

- Amount of alcohol the student admits to consuming
- When the student stopped consuming alcohol
- The student's ability to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, engage in a conversation, standing and walking without assistance etc.
- The student's ability to answer simple questions: day of the week, present location etc.
- PBT reading, when available
- Consultation with University Police and professional staff

If there is a concern for a student's health and safety, then the decision to transport to the hospital should be made. At no time will Residence Life personnel allow a student to go back to his/her room and seek care or monitoring from his/her roommate/friend etc.

It is entirely possible that a student may be unwilling to seek medical treatment. Should this occur, the student is to be informed that we will be contacting a parent/guardian or other responsible party (Note: another BU student cannot serve as the responsible party). The reason we are making this contact is because we cannot permit the student to return to his/her residence given their current medical condition.

If the student remains unwilling to seek treatment, the responding GHD shall contact the professional on call who will physically come to the scene (i.e. police station, residence hall room etc). It will be the professional's responsibility to contact the parent/guardian. The professional shall ask for a contact number from the student. If this is unavailable, or the student refuses to provide such a number, efforts shall be made to secure the general information card, access the mainframe or other steps to find an appropriate phone number (i.e. speaking with the roommate).

Upon calling the parent/guardian, the professional will provide the facts of the case. Once this information is provided, the professional will encourage the parent/guardian to speak with the student. The goal is for the parent/guardian to encourage/instruct their student to seek medical treatment. If this is unsuccessful, the professional will inform the parent/guardian that he/she will need to pick up their student (or send a responsible party to pick up the student) since we cannot guarantee their safety by allowing them to return to their residence hall room.

As with any case, particularly difficult situations should be discussed with Mark Bauman or Tom Kresch, depending on who the appropriate contact person is for that particular day.