

Resolution 025
**A Resolution to Clarify and Increase Awareness of the Good Samaritan
Medical Amnesty Program**
Sponsored by: Senator Galassi
**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Harrison, Senator Lucardi, and Senator
Paviglianiti**

Whereas,

The Office of the Dean of Students' website states, "the health and safety of each student is a priority for The Catholic University of America community."¹

Whereas,

In cases of alcohol or other drug related emergencies, students who may need assistance for themselves and/or others might be deterred from seeking medical attention due to the fear of disciplinary action from the University Student Conduct process regarding the incident.

Whereas,

The Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program was designed by The Office of the Dean of Students "to remove this barrier that might prevent students from seeking medical attention."²

Whereas,

In explaining how the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program works, The Office of the Dean of Students' website states, "through the Good Samaritan / Medical Amnesty Program, students who actively seek assistance for another person in need of medical attention (Good Samaritan) or students who actively seek assistance for themselves (Medical Amnesty) will be exempt from the University Student Conduct process, as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct."³

Whereas,

When the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty program is invoked during an incident, The Office of the Dean of Students' will address the situation "as a health and safety concern" as long as the student contacts the appropriate emergency officials depending on if the incident occurs on or off campus, remains with the individual(s) needing the medical attention as long as it remains safe to do so, meets with a staff member in The Office of the Dean of Students following the incident, and agrees to and completes "educational and/or health interventions as a condition of deferring student conduct sanctions."⁴

Whereas,

¹ The Office of the Dean of Students, Amnesty <https://deanofstudents.catholic.edu/alcohol/amnesty/index.html>

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

The Office of the Dean of Students' website notes that any student who fails to follow and meet all the required conditions to be considered for the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty program will then "be subject to disciplinary action." In addition, the website also notes that "this program does not apply to other alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct that may have occurred as a part of the incident, such as: disorderly conduct, physical abuse, conduct which threatens safety, verbal or physical harassment or property damage."⁵

Whereas,

During the University Student Conduct process, the case's assigned staff member in The Office of the Dean of Students will consider the incident and all relevant information in its entirety to make an appropriate decision.

Whereas,

The Office of the Dean of Students' website on the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program fails to explain that any students who actively seek assistance for themselves and/or others but then do not accept medical treatment, such as not being medically transported to the hospital, for reasons including but not limited to, personal financial hardships or not medically needing to go to the hospital, forfeit their ability to be considered for this program and are subject to the University Conduct Process.

Whereas,

On The Office of the Dean of Student' website for the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program, there is no information regarding mental health in cases of alcohol or other drug related emergencies.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests:

1. The Office of the Dean of Students clarify the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program regarding a student's decision to not accept medical treatment due to reasons specific to each situation.
2. The Office of the Dean of Students clarify and revise, if need be, the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program regarding situations that also involve a mental health incident.
3. The Office of the Dean of Students and The Office of Residence Life actively and publicly promote and inform all students about what the Good Samaritan/ Medical Amnesty Program is and how it works.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Gerald Sharpe
President of the Student Government Association

⁵ Ibid

Gemma del Carmen

Vice President of the Student Government Association

