

Missing Persons Policy & Procedure for Student Residents Nebraska Methodist College

The health and safety of Nebraska Methodist College students is of utmost concern to the institution. It is this concern that underlies NMC's commitment to and compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act's requirement for colleges and universities to establish a missing persons policy for its residents and to inform students of the policy.

Policy:

For purposes of this policy, a student resident may be considered a "missing person" if the person's absence is contrary to his/her usual pattern of behavior and it is suspected that unusual circumstances may have caused the absence. Such circumstances could include, but are not limited to, a report or suspicion that the missing person may be the victim of foul play, has expressed suicidal thoughts, is drug dependent, is in a life-threatening situation, or has been with persons who may endanger the student's welfare.

If, when based on facts and circumstances, it is determined that a student resident is missing, the following individuals will be notified: 1) the appropriate College officials, 2) law enforcement, and 3) the student's parents/guardians and/or other persons designated as emergency contacts by the student.

The Higher Education Act requires institutions of higher education to provide students the option of designating a confidential contact person who is not necessarily a parent or legal guardian. The institution may contact this person if the student is deemed missing. If no contact person is designated, the institution will contact parents or a legal guardian. In addition, whether or not a student identifies a contact person, the Higher Education Act requires Nebraska Methodist College to notify local law enforcement no later than 24 hours after the time the student is deemed missing.

Procedure:

When a student moves into NMC campus housing, he/she will provide emergency contact information on a form provided by the College. The contact person(s) designated by the student will become the primary contact(s) during a missing person's investigation.

If a member of the NMC community believes a student resident is missing, he/she should notify Security, the Director of Student Housing, or the Dean of Students Office immediately and provide as much information as possible. These offices will undertake an immediate investigation and make efforts to contact the student, his/her friends, acquaintances, and professors in an attempt to locate the student.

If it is determined that a student is indeed missing, the Director of Student Housing and/or the Dean of Students will begin calling the person designated as the emergency contact by the student and/or the student's custodial parent or guardian of a non-emancipated minor. If these calls do not resolve the situation or locate the missing student, local law enforcement/911 will be notified immediately. These notifications (to the student's emergency contact or custodial parent/guardian and local law enforcement) will be made no later than 24 hours after the time the student is deemed missing.

Reviewed April 28, 2011