Missing Greek Residential Student Notification

Summary/Purpose: To establish a set of procedures for the University of Mississippi on-campus Greek residential student community regarding the reporting, investigating, and required emergency notification when a student is deemed to be missing.

Definitions
Greek Residential Student: a student currently enrolled at the University of Mississippi, who resides in an on-campus Greek house.
Missing: (1) a student is presumed missing if she or he is overdue in reaching home or campus for more than 24 hours past an expected arrival and a check of the student’s residence supports that determination. (2) A Residential Student may be considered missing if she or he is overdue in reaching home, campus or another specific location past the expected arrival; additional factors lead University staff to believe she or he is missing; and a check of the student’s residence supports that determination.

Notification to Residential Students
A. Presidents of Greek organizations with on campus houses are required to keep on file current phone numbers of students living in the fraternity or sorority house. The student is responsible for ensuring the contact information is current and accurate
B. Students residing in on-campus Greek houses will be informed of the option to identify an individual(s) to be contacted by the institution not later than 24 hours after the time the student is determined missing. The contact information will be confidential and retained by the presidents of each organization.
C. Students residing in on-campus Greek houses under 18 years of age and not emancipated will be informed that the University is required to notify a custodial parent or guardian not later than 24 hours after the time that the student is determined missing.
D. Students living in on-campus Greek houses will be informed that the University will notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies within 24 hours after the time that the student is determined missing.

Procedures for Reporting Missing Students
Any University of Mississippi student or employee who receives information that a student living in an on-campus Greek house may be missing must immediately report the information to the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students, along with the University Police Department (UPD), will conduct a preliminary investigation to verify the situation and to determine the circumstances which exist related to the reported missing student. If upon conclusion of the preliminary investigation, it is determined that the student should be considered missing, UPD will contact the appropriate outside law enforcement agencies and provide relevant information.

All pertinent law enforcement agencies, including, if known, those operating in the student’s normal routes of travel or hometown, will be notified and requested to render assistance; all law enforcement agencies involved will receive routine investigation status reports during the course
of the investigation. If UPD determines that the student should be considered missing, the person making the initial report will be encouraged to file an official missing person report to local police.

**Procedures for Investigating Missing Students**

If the student is determined to live in an on campus Greek house, a preliminary investigation will be initiated to verify the situation and to determine the circumstances related to the reported missing student.

The president or designee of the respective organization will attempt to contact the student via his or her telephone by using the number(s) provided.

If the student cannot be reached by telephone, the on-campus house should be searched to verify the reported missing student is not inside the house. Any suspicious or other relevant information should be immediately reported to UPD.

If these steps provide someone with an opportunity to speak with the missing student, verification of the student’s state of health and intention of returning to campus should be made. A referral, if needed, may be made to the University Counseling Center.

If these steps do not provide someone with an opportunity to speak with the missing student and the missing student is determined to be under the age of eighteen, the Office of the Dean of Students will contact the parents or guardians within 24 hours. If the missing student is determined to be over the age of eighteen, the Office of the Dean of Students will contact the individual(s) identified by the student as his or her emergency contact within 24 hours. The UPD will be given all pertinent information regarding the missing student. UPD will work with all pertinent law enforcement agencies, including, if known, those operating in the student’s normal routes of travel or hometown. All law enforcement agencies involved will receive routine investigation status reports during the course of the investigation.