

Policy 475 - Missing Student Notification for Students Residing in Campus Housing

In compliance with the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 2008, the purpose of this policy is to provide procedures for reporting, investigating, and notifying authorities if a student who resides on campus is believed to be missing.

Definition of Missing Residential Student

A residential student will be considered missing if any person has reason to believe that a resident student's absence is contrary to their behavior and has not been seen in a reasonable amount of time. A reasonable amount of time may vary with the time of day and information available regarding the missing person's daily schedule, habits, and reliability. Before presuming that a person is missing, reasonable measures should be taken to determine that no one familiar with the person has seen or heard from the person for an unusual period of time or is aware of where they may be. If a person's absence has occurred under circumstances that are considered suspicious or there are concerns for their safety, the person shall be considered missing immediately.

Missing Student Emergency Contact

In addition to registering an emergency contact, all students living in campus student housing shall have the opportunity to identify a missing student contact to be used in the event the student is reported missing. That person shall be the first contact in the event that the student would be officially reported missing during their time at the College. Missing student contact information will be registered confidentially and will be accessible only to authorized College officials and may not be disclosed except to law enforcement personnel for the purpose of locating the student. In the absence of a designated confidential contact, the student's emergency contact shall be utilized as the confidential contact.

For students under the age of 18 and not emancipated, the College is required to notify the custodial parent or guardian not later than 24 hours after a student is determined to be missing.

Students can register a contact when signing their housing agreement or at any time by contacting the Safety and Security Office at 360.442.2911.

Reporting a Missing Residential Student

Any individual who believes a student living in on-campus student housing may be missing should immediately contact Lower Columbia College's Safety and Security Office at 360.442.2911 or the Vice President of Student Services at 360-442-2300. Any missing student report must be referred immediately to LCC's Safety and Security Office.

Investigation of a Missing Residential Student

The College has 24 hours after receiving a report that the student is missing to initiate specific missing student notification procedures. However, the College can initiate their procedures for a missing student before 24 hours has passed.

Upon receiving a report of a missing student, the Director of Safety and Security or their designee shall immediately investigate and make a determination that a student who is the subject of a missing report has been missing for more than 24 hours and has not returned to campus.

Notification

After investigating a missing person report, should Lower Columbia College Safety and Security determine that the student has been missing for more than 24 hours, the Director of Safety and Security or their designee will notify the following:

- The Longview Police Department
- The student's missing person contact
- The student's parent or legal guardian (if the person is under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated individual)
- The appropriate Consulate in case the student is an international student

Historic Information

- Reviewed by ELT: November 27, 2019
- Reviewed by Governance Council: February 5, 2020
- Reviewed by UMCC: February 18, 2021
- Campus Review: March 3-17, 2020
- ADOPTED: March 18, 2020
- Reviewed by ELT: March 10, 2021
- Reviewed by UMCC: March 16, 2021
- Reviewed by Governance Council: April 7, 2021
- Campus Review: April 13-27, 2021
- Approved by ELT: April 28, 2021

| Resource/Reference/ Procedure | Title | Unit Responsibility |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Procedure 475.1A (lower columbia.edu/publication s/administrative-policies/_ assets/documents/Proced ure_475.1A.pdf) | Missing Student Notification Procedure | VP Student Services |