FERPA

Parental Notification

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and its implementing regulations (FERPA) generally prevent West Virginia University from disclosing information regarding student conduct charges to parents/guardians without authorization. However, FERPA permits, but does not require, disclosure to parents/guardians of “the student’s violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.” Accordingly, West Virginia University may, but is not required to, notify parents/guardians of students under the age of 21 who are found responsible for violations of the University’s alcohol and/or drug policies.

If this type of notification is received, parents or guardians are encouraged to speak directly with their student to learn more information about the student’s involvement in the incident or ask the student to sign a Release of Information form with the Office of Student Conduct.

FAQ

What does this mean for me or my student?
If you are found responsible by the Offices of Student Conduct or the Office of Residence Life for an alcohol or drug violation, your parents may receive notification from the university of the violation that you received.

Do I need to complete any paperwork?
You will not need to complete any paperwork to allow the university to make this notification. Federal law allows the university to disclose this information.

When does this go into effect?
This went into effect at the start of the Fall 2018 semester.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?
Please contact the Office of Student Conduct at WVUstudentconduct@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-8111 if you have questions regarding this policy.

Why is the University moving in this direction?
This policy change is intended as an educational strategy, to enable parents/guardians to partner with appropriate University representatives to reduce the risk of students developing behavioral patterns that place their health and well-being at risk.