

New York Film Academy Drug and Alcohol Awareness Policy

This document has been designed to inform New York Film Academy (NYFA) students, prospective students and staff of the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Public Law 101-226, and the policies that NYFA requires of its students, staff and faculty. NYFA students, staff and faculty are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of illicit drugs or alcohol. This prohibition applies while on NYFA campuses or when participating in any NYFA activity. Students or employees who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or termination from employment.

Health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse

Drug abuse is the utilization of natural and/or synthetic chemical substances for non-medical reasons to affect the body and its processes, the mind and nervous system and behavior. The abuse of drugs can affect a person's physical and emotional health and social life. Alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States. Drugs can be highly addictive and injurious to the body. People tend to lose their sense of responsibility and coordination. Restlessness, irritability, anxiety, paranoia, depression, slowed movement, inattentiveness, loss of appetite, sexual indifference, comas, convulsions, or even death can result from overuse or abuse of drugs. Not only does the person using the drug subject themselves to all sorts of health risks, drug use can and, in many instances does, cause grief and discomfort to innocent people.

Dependency upon drugs can only lead to a life of misery and misfortune. The illegal use or abuse of drugs has a very high impact on our society and the types of crimes committed. To support a drug habit, people may resort to many things that can lead to a life of misery or, in some instances, death. Use link below for a complete list of the Health Risks associated with alcohol dependency.

<http://www.allaboutcounseling.com/drugeffects.htm>

A drug-induced brain affects the wide range of skills needed for safe driving. Further, reflexes are slowed, making it hard for drivers to respond to sudden unexpected events. Alcohol-related highway deaths are the top killer of 15-24 year olds. In certain cases, students and employees may be referred to counseling sources and/or substance abuse help centers. If such a referral is made, continued enrollment or employment will be subject to successful completion of any prescribed counseling or treatment programs.

Dollar costs from drug or alcohol abuse can range from \$200 to \$3,000 per week to support a habit. More importantly, a drug habit impacts a person's family, lifestyle, education and career prospects as well as one's physical well-being and self-respect. Treatment is available and may be expensive. For example, a typical live-in program lasting four (4) weeks can cost from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Outpatient programs cost from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Who pays for these treatments? There may be programs that cover the costs. One way or another, the person and the taxpayer pays! It has been proven that an individual "hooked" cannot just stop, but requires professional care to kick the habit. There are classic danger signals that could indicate the first sign of drug use. The primary ones that could call attention to one's use of drugs are:

- Abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- Continuing slump at work or in school
- Continuing resistance to discipline at home or school
- Inability to get along with family or friends
- Regular temper flare-ups
- Increased borrowing of money
- Heightened secrecy/isolation
- Acquiring a whole new set of friends.

Drug and alcohol prevention efforts at NYFA

Students who believe that they have a substance abuse problem and are seeking treatment may contact the Student Liaison Office for counseling assistance. To request a referral for psychological counseling, contact the Student Liaison office, all such matters will be handled confidentially. The NYFA Student Liaison Office will also assist in referring students to recovery and/or treatment programs.

There are also drug or alcohol counseling, treatment and rehabilitation facilities available in the local area where individuals can seek advice and treatment. The yellow pages of the local telephone book are an excellent source. Look under the heading "Drug Abuse and Addiction – Information and Treatment." National organizations also offer help, information and resources. The following link provides a list of hotline and support services on a national level.

http://www.allaboutcounseling.com/crisis_hotlines.htm

NYFA imposed sanctions for drug or alcohol policy violations

Students and staff who violate the NYFA standards of conduct subject themselves to disciplinary action. Employees must notify the Director in writing of a conviction of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace within five days after receiving the conviction.

Disciplinary action for a violation of the student conduct policy regarding alcohol or illicit drugs can range from oral and written warnings up to and including suspension, expulsion depending on the circumstances. It is the intent NYFA's administration to review the effectiveness of the campus Drug Prevention program on a biennial basis to ensure:

- The effectiveness of the program and to modify where necessary.
- That sanctions are consistently enforced.
- A record of reviews will be kept. These reviews will be maintained and available to appropriate agencies as required.

Specific school policies prohibit:

- Use, possession, sale, distribution and/or production of alcoholic beverages, acting as an accessory, liaison, or facilitator for any of the above except at a time, location and circumstance expressly permitted by NYFA and government regulations.
- Use, possession, sale, distribution, and/or production of narcotics or other controlled substances, including related paraphernalia, or acting as an accessory, liaison, or facilitator for any of the above.
- Public intoxication anywhere on NYFA's premises or at functions sponsored by or participated in by NYFA.

Note: Responsibility is not diminished for acts in violation of NYFA rules and regulations or other laws that are committed under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drugs or controlled substances. Recent federal anti-drug laws affect a number of areas in everyone's lives. NYFA students violating this policy could lose eligibility for financial aid or could be denied other federal benefits such as Social Security, retirement, welfare, health, disability, and veterans' benefits. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provides funds to states and communities for public housing, now has the authority to evict residents and members of their household who are involved in drug related crimes on or near the public housing premises. Businesses could lose federal

contracts if the company does not promote a drug-free environment. Finally, a record of a felony or conviction in a drug-related crime may prevent a person from entering certain careers.

Federal, State or Local Sanctions for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit substances

In addition to local and State authorities, the federal government has four agencies engaged in fighting illicit drugs. These agencies are: The Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U. S. Coast Guard. Important facts to be aware of include:

- It is a crime to hold someone else's drugs.
- It is a crime to sell fake drugs.
- You can be arrested if you are in a house (or an institution) where people are using drugs, even though you are not.
- You can be charged with possessing drugs even if it is not found on you personally.
- You are considered to possess, under legal terms of constructive possession," drugs found in your locker, purse, car, or house.

Drug and alcohol treatment referral options

Students who believe that they have a substance abuse problem and are seeking treatment may contact the Student liaison Office for counseling assistance. To request a referral for psychological counseling, contact the Student liaison office, all such matters will be handled confidentially.

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NYFA requires that any person observing any student or staff directly engaging in prohibited drug or alcohol use on campus immediately notify the Director. Caution must be observed, however, to avoid wrongful accusation of a person suspected of taking drugs as an improper accusation could lead to embarrassment to both the individual and the Institution. Once it has been determined by management that assistance to overcome the problem is indicated, the individual and his/her family should be counseled on the need for assistance. Confidential student records will be maintained of any such counseling provided to an individual. NYFA can only offer limited psychological counseling and advice. Additional support or treatment must be an expense borne by the student. If the individual is in immediate danger of harming himself/herself or others, local law authorities and immediate family members will be contacted by NYFA staff.

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