DERECH HACHAIM SEMINARY

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) PREVENTION POLICY

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The unlawful use, possession, sale or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol as defined by State, Federal and local law, by students and employees, on school property, or as part of school activities is strictly prohibited.

Derech Hachaim Seminary is committed to maintaining a campus free of illegal drugs and alcohol as defined by local, Federal and New York State law. The institution has adapted a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal drugs and alcohol, and will continually enforce it.

Under specific, limited circumstances, the legal and responsible use of alcohol on school property, or as part of school activities may be permitted.

STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL LEGAL SANCTIONS FOR THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The penalties and sanctions listed below are intended as a guideline, and should not be construed as legal advice or information.

Depending on the circumstances, a drug conviction may result in a permanent criminal record.

Both federal and state laws prohibit operation of any vehicle with a BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) of .08 or higher. There is a zero tolerance law for those under 21.

Federal penalties for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol

Although marijuana is legal in the state of New York, it is illegal under federal law. Therefore, the possession, use or distribution of marijuana on a campus that receives Title IV funding is prohibited.

Under federal law, anyone convicted of a drug crime will face at least a mandatory minimum prison sentence. Depending on a variety of factors - whether it was a first offense, the type and amount of the drug involved, if there was intent to distribute - penalties range from less than one year to life imprisonment. Fines for simple possession range from $1,000-$5,000, while trafficking carries fines of up to $75 million, depending on the circumstances.

Assets may also be seized, including cars, cash, real estate, or anything of value used to commit a drug crime or bought with drug proceeds.

Legal consequences that stem from federal drug convictions tend to be harsher than state penalties, and will usually involve longer prison sentences and larger criminal fines.

Consequences of a federal DUI (Driving Under the Influence) are the same regardless of where the offense is committed. Federal penalties may include incarceration in a federal prison for up to six months, fines of up to $5,000 and/or probation for up to five years.

Penalties for a federal DUI may be increased if the intoxicated driver's BAC was significantly over the limit, a passenger was under the age of 14, or the driver has several prior DUI convictions.

New York State penalties for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol

Depending on the type and amount of the drug involved, penalties for possession and selling range from up to 1 year to 20 years imprisonment. Fines

for drug possession and sale range from $1,000 to $100,000. Trafficking carries a minimum prison sentence of 15-25 years and a maximum of life imprisonment, as well as fines of up to $100,000.

It is illegal to possess marijuana in excess of 3 ounces. Penalties for illegal possession or sale of marijuana range from fines of $1,000-$15,000 and/or 1-15 years in prison, depending on the amount. Trafficking marijuana, in any amount, carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15-25 years.

New York law provides enhanced penalties for repeat drug offenders, and all sentences must include a period of post-release supervision.

Driving while intoxicated is a crime. The penalties for an alcohol or drug-related driving violation include the loss of driving privileges, fines, and/or a possible jail term. Greater penalties can also apply for multiple alcohol or drug violations within a 25-year period

New York State statutes provide penalties for the unlawful possession of alcohol, including fines, community service and/or participation in alcohol awareness programs.

Local penalties for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol

Local penalties vary widely, and can range from fines and/or community service to license suspension and even possible jail time for violations of open container laws.

HEALTH RISKS

Any amount of drugs or alcohol may have immediate effects such as dizziness, altered thinking and judgment, among other effects, which increase the risk of motor vehicle crashes, falls, drowning and burns.

Marijuana has been shown to affect memory and intelligence, most seriously among young people who are at a crucial stage of development. Marijuana may also act as a "gateway" to more dangerous drugs.

Prescription drug abuse is the use of a prescription medication in a way not intended by the prescribing doctor, and is illegal. This can include taking a medicine that was prescribed for someone else, taking a larger dose than you are supposed to, taking the medicine in a different way than you are supposed to or using the medicine for a purpose other than for what it was intended.

There are always risks involved when taking illegal drugs. Many drugs are potentially addictive after one dose. Illicit drugs are unlikely to be “pure”, and can be mixed with a variety of unknown dangerous, and even lethal, substances.

Short term health risks may include slurred speech, dizziness, altered thinking and judgment, as well as increased blood pressure, heart rate and temperature. An overdose can lead to seizures, loss of consciousness, heart attack, a coma and death.

There are many long term health risks from illegal drug use including liver disease, lung damage, heart disease, heart attack and brain damage.

Short term physical effects caused by alcohol may include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, slurred speech, altered thinking and judgment, deficits in coordination and a quickened heartbeat.

Long term health risks from excessive alcohol consumption may include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, pancreatitis, and different forms of cancer.

Drinking copious amounts of alcohol in a short span of time can cause alcohol poisoning, which may cause vomiting, seizures and, unconsciousness and death.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS THAT THE INSTITUTION WILL IMPOSE ON STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Derech Hachaim Seminary does not permit the unlawful use, possession, sale or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students or employees, on school property, or as part of school activities. Any student or employee who violates the Standards of Conduct will be disciplined as enumerated below. There will be no further warnings before disciplinary sanctions are taken.

Students

A student who is found to have violated the institution's Standards of Conduct will receive a disciplinary sanction. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a reprimand, notation on the student's record, meeting with the parents of the student, probation, suspension, or expulsion. She may also be referred for counseling and/or treatment, as detailed below. If applicable, she will be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

Employees

An employee who is found to have violated the Standards of Conduct will be terminated immediately. He or she may also be referred for counseling and/or treatment through Amudim, as detailed below. If applicable, he or she will be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

AVAILABLE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT

Derech Hachaim Seminary is committed to assisting students with any difficulties they might experience. Should a student encounter any issues she would like to discuss, she is encouraged to reach out for counseling. The thrust of institutional counseling is prevention, and faculty members have been trained to be sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of the students, and to assist appropriately. Should a student require professional counseling, the institution will refer her to an appropriate professional.

The earlier a problem is caught, the easier it is to rectify. Neglect of a drug or alcohol problem can cause severe danger to the person involved, as well as those around her. If a student, or someone they know is struggling with drugs or alcohol, they are advised to seek help.

If the student does not seek assistance, and the institution discovers she has a drug or alcohol problem, she will be referred for counseling and may be required to seek professional assistance before returning to school.

For drug and alcohol related counseling and treatment, our students and employees are referred to Amudim, a confidential resource center. Amudim provides meaningful assistance, enduring support, and direct referrals for individuals and families impacted by addiction, and other crisis-related matters.

Amudim has established relationships with numerous clinicians, treatment centers, outpatient programs and more, to make the most suitable referrals, and best guide people on the important steps necessary to achieve a long term positive outcome.

Amudim
Telephone: (646) 517-0222, (646) 517-0221
Email: info@amudim.org
Website: https://amudim.org/substance-abuse-and-addiction/

Students and employees may also reach out to NCAAD, the leading advocacy organization in the world addressing alcoholism and drug dependence.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)
Telephone: 1-800-NCA-CALL (622-2255)
Website: https://ncadd.us/