



Policy SA007: Housing Policy for Discipline and Justice Involved Students

Recommended for Approval by: Susanne Fenske

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A. Intent

This Chief Student Affairs Officers (PASSHE) policy has been established to provide consistent and equitable decisions regarding access to residential housing for those individuals with prior involvement with justice or student conduct actions.

B. Definition(s)

- **Criminal Conduct** refers to a felony or misdemeanor conviction. A conviction is an adjudication of guilt, including pleas of nolo contendere (no contest). For purposes of this definition, convictions for traffic citations, summary offenses, or which have been expunged or sealed are not considered. This term also specifically excludes an adjudication of delinquency for a criminal offense.
- **Disciplinary Action** refers to a disciplinary sanction of removal from housing, suspension, expulsion or other form of dismissal from an institution of higher education for behavioral misconduct. For purposes of this definition, interim measures (e.g., Interim Suspensions, interim housing removal, etc.) are not considered. Pending initiation of student conduct charges is not considered unless the student withdraws or has withdrawn prior to disposition of the charges.

Keywords:

- Residential Housing Policy
- Criminal Conduct
- Disciplinary Action

C. Policy

Pennsylvania Western University strives to provide a safe campus and learning environment. As a part of that effort, when *Residence Life Services* receives an application for housing¹ from an individual who has been convicted of certain criminal offenses and/or received a disciplinary sanction from an institution of higher education, the application will be forwarded to the Discipline/Justice Review Committee.

A conviction or disciplinary action does not, in and of itself, disqualify an applicant from residential housing. The Committee's task is to evaluate the nature and extent of the applicant's potential threat to campus safety and the University's learning environment based on considerations of the nature and age of the offense, its severity and the relation of offense or disciplinary action to campus housing.

D. Procedure(s)

The Committee will review the completed documentation and determine if the applicant is eligible for residential housing. As part of this process, the University may request additional documentation from the applicant and may, where appropriate, request that the applicant appear for an interview with the Committee. The Committee's decision is final.

If the relevant requested documentation is not received from the applicant, the application will remain incomplete. Should the requested documentation not be received within 2 weeks of the document request date, *Residence Life Services* has the option to cancel the application as incomplete.

If an applicant answers no to the criminal background or the disciplinary history application question(s) and it is later found the applicant did not truthfully respond to the questionnaire or provide complete and truthful information, the University has the right to rescind the offer of residential housing or take disciplinary action that may include removal from housing and/or dismissal from the University.

E. Related policies

On-line Housing Application

Admissions Disclaimer Regarding Criminal Background Checks

Prior Conduct Statement Form

Criminal & Disciplinary Residential Housing Procedures

F. Contact Information

PennWest Residence Life & Housing Office

G. Policy Review Schedule

Contact office responsible for dates.

All policies will be reviewed every two years or on an as needed basis if a change in BOG, PASSHE or

¹ Please note that "housing" refers to university-owned residential housing. The term also applies to affiliate housing at those universities where the university has a written agreement with the affiliate that provides for university receipt and review of applications for housing.

Pennsylvania law would create the need for an immediate change.