

# TALMUDICAL SEMINARY OHOLEI TORAH

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The following Institutional Drug and Alcohol Policy is in effect at Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah:

Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah is committed to maintaining a campus free of illegal drugs as defined by local, Federal and New York State law.

Although drug abuse is common in American society today, we expect Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah to be completely drug-free. Our institution has adapted a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal drugs, and we will continually enforce it.

The unlawful use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol as defined by State, Federal and local law is strictly prohibited as well.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT REGARDING DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

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.

The **responsible** use of alcohol by students over 21 on school property, or as part of school activities is permitted.

A student who is drinking should turn his car keys over to a friend. We fully support the idea of a designated driver. This is an arrangement where one person, who remains sober, is selected in advance as the responsible driver of a vehicle.

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

Please be aware that State, Federal and local laws are constantly changing. This policy is intended as a guideline, and should not be used for information regarding legal issues.

One can be arrested for being in close proximity to illegal drugs, even if not using or carrying them.

A drug conviction can 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 IX funding is prohibited.

Under federal law, anyone convicted of a drug crime will face at least a mandatory minimum prison sentence. Depending on the type and amount of the drug involved, and whether there is 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 \$50 million.

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.

The 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 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**

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

Marijuana, once considered relatively harmless, 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.

There are always risks involved when taking illegal drugs. Many drugs are potentially addictive after one dose, and can kill with just the smallest amount of overdose. Drugs are unlikely to be "pure", and there is no way of knowing what they are mixed with. This can easily lead to an accidental overdose.

Some of the many health risks from illegal drug use include liver disease, lung damage, heart attack and brain damage. Drug use can also lead to a coma and death, even after "just" one dose.

Excessive use of drugs or alcohol can have immediate effects that increase the risk of many harmful health conditions, including injuries, such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, drowning and burns.

Drinking copious amounts of alcohol in a short span of time can cause alcohol poisoning, which may be dangerous or life threatening.

Long term health risks from excessive alcohol consumption include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, cancers and more.

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

Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah will not tolerate 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.

Please read the following guidelines carefully as it is the only warning given before sanctions are imposed.

### **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. He may also be referred for counseling and/or treatment, as detailed below. If applicable, he 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 may also be referred for counseling and/or treatment through Amudim, as detailed below. If applicable, he will be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution.

## **AVAILABLE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT**

Our institution is committed to assisting students with any difficulties they might experience. Should a student encounter any issues he would like to discuss, we encourage him to reach out for counseling. The thrust of our institutional counseling effort is directed towards prevention, and our faculty members have been trained to be sensitive to the physical and emotional well

being of our students, and to assist as appropriate. If a student requires professional counseling, our institution will refer him 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 him. If you, or someone you know is struggling with drugs or alcohol, please reach out for help.

If you do not come forward and we discover that you have a problem, we will refer you for counseling and you may be required to seek professional assistance before returning to school.

For drug and alcohol related counseling and treatment, we refer our students and faculty to Amudim, a confidential resource center that 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**

Phone: (646) 517-0222

Email: [info@amudim.org](mailto:info@amudim.org)

[www.amudim.org](http://www.amudim.org)

Students can 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/>