

Parental Notification

Drafted by Douglas Pearson*

Whereas, the Congressional revisions in the fall of 1998 to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, barring state provisions, permit, but do not require, schools to notify parents or legal guardians of students who are under the age of 21 if the institution determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to institutional policies regarding alcohol and other drugs; and

Whereas, student alcohol and drug use continues to be of major concern to campus communities and to those administering campus conduct standards for students at institutions of higher education; and

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs recognizes the dual responsibility that student judicial affairs professionals have for both fostering student development and protecting the rights, health and safety of members within the institutional community; and**

Whereas, a number of institutions have instituted policies and practices for notification of parents for students found responsible for alcohol and drug violations; and***

Whereas, some institutions utilizing parental or legal guardian notification policies and practices have reported an effect of reduced violations due to these policies and practices; therefore be it***

Resolved, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs hereby recognizes that parental or legal guardian notification can be one of many beneficial educational components that can enhance the student judicial process; further be it

Resolved, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs hereby recognizes that the decision to notify or not is an institutional one, requiring discussion with community members of that institution on what may work best in light of the unique political, social, financial, and historical milieu of the institution; further be it

Resolved, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs advocates that institutions contemplating parental notification utilize the suggested guidelines for decision making developed by the Model Policy Committee and the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues.

* Based on recommendations made by the ASJA Model Policy Committee and feedback from the ASJA Resolutions Committee.

** Preamble to the Constitution of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs.

*** ASJA Survey (January, 2000).