Greek Life: How to Help a Chapter Member in Distress

Are you worried about the member’s safety or do you see possible warning signs? WARNING SIGNS include (but are not limited to):

- Student disoriented, found unconscious or unresponsive
- Student talks about or threatens suicide
- Makes statements such as “I want this all to end” or “I can’t go on anymore”

**Directly** ask about your concerns and/or the warning signs

**Directly** ask about suicide/homicide as it relates to the displayed warning sign(s)

**Do not leave student alone**

**YES** (imminent danger is clearly present)

- EXAMPLES:
  - Student disoriented, found unconscious or unresponsive
  - Student talks about or threatens suicide
  - Makes statements such as “I want this all to end” or “I can’t go on anymore”

**Immediately** call YSU Police at (330) 941-3527 or 911 from a campus telephone.

- If at an off-campus location, call 911.

- Contact the FSA (Fraternity/Sorority Advisor) immediately after contacting emergency services.

- In an emergency situation, the FSA can assist you in making important arrangements such as organization management, group and individual counseling, administrative notification, and communication with the appropriate officials.

- Contact your Chapter Advisor and notify them of the situation. They can assist you in contacting your inter/national headquarters when needed.

**WRITE DOWN**:

- Everything you know about the situation (who, what, where, & when)
- Any information you have about the student’s difficulties (including history)
- A number where you can be reached

- Submit a Person of Concern referral at https://ysu.edu/concern-referral using the information you wrote in the step above.

**UNSURE** (whether imminent danger exists)

**EXAMPLES**:

- Student reports a history of self-injurious behaviors (i.e. cutting or burning) and now states a desire to engage in the behavior again
- Student is threatening immediate danger to self (i.e. threatening to jump out a window, ingest pills, shoot self, etc.)

**Contact the FSA (Fraternity/Sorority Advisor) and notify them of the situation.**

- Provide all the relevant information you have about the student and your beliefs about the urgency of the situation.

- Please know that we would like to hear your concerns and consider submitting a Person of Concern referral at https://ysu.edu/concern-referral using the information you wrote in the step above.

**NO** (imminent danger is clearly not present)

- EXAMPLES:
  - Student is very upset about the end of a romantic relationship, but denies suicidal/homicidal thoughts and shows no warning signs
  - Student reports anxiety and depression, but denies suicidal/homicidal thoughts and shows no warning signs
  - Student’s best friend recently died, but denies suicidal/homicidal thoughts and shows no warning signs

- Discuss counseling services and/or other university resources that might be helpful and address any concern the student might have about these resources. If you need assistance in determining the appropriate resource(s), or about how to refer, contact YSU Student Counseling Center (330) 941-3737 during normal business hours and ask to speak with a counselor.

- **Should you decide to refer to Student Counseling Services?**
  - Please know that we would like to hear your concerns about the student and your beliefs about the urgency of the situation
  - Consider calling with the student, or accompanying the student to Student Counseling to initiate counseling services.
  - Continue to follow up with the student as appropriate; contact Student Counseling if you observe a significant change.

- **Consider submitting a Person of Concern referral at https://ysu.edu/concern-referral for outreach by the Office of Student Outreach and Support.**

- **Notify your chapter advisor and the FSA that a referral has been made.**