

COUNSELING SERVICES	POLICIES & PROCEDURES	Review History
Niagara University	Court Ordered Counseling Sessions	<p>Data Initiated: June 2012</p> <p>Last Revision:</p> <p>Date(s) Reviewed/Revised:</p>

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to delineate the extent to which Counseling Services will participate in Court Ordered Treatment.

Rationale:

Clarification regarding Counseling Services' role in court ordered treatment is necessary due to the number of requests we receive regarding provision of this type of treatment.

Policy:

Counseling Services does not mandate and does not support mandated, ongoing mental health counseling for students, but is willing to meet for an initial appointment with students to introduce the counseling service to the student. Counseling Services always provides the student with the choice of whether or not to participate in/continue with counseling. This policy is written in conjunction with the 2005 American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics:

“A.2.a. Informed Consent

Clients have the freedom to choose whether to enter into or remain in a counseling relationship and need adequate information about the counseling process and the counselor. Counselors have an obligation to review in writing and verbally with clients the rights and responsibilities of both the counselor and the client. Informed consent is an ongoing part of the counseling process, and counselors appropriately document discussions of informed consent throughout the counseling relationship. (American Counseling Association Code of Ethics, 2005, p. 4)”

Verification of attendance at any appointment at Counseling Services is done only with the legally-valid, non-coerced, written consent of the student.

Counseling Services does not fulfill an evaluative/administrative role regarding whether or not students should be permitted to stay on campus. That role resides with the Student Affairs office or other administrative level office. It is a conflict of interest for Counseling Services staff to be both counselor and evaluator/administrator to students. This dual relationship would also

potentially compromise students' perception of our role and their willingness to seek out necessary assistance.

Should a student find him/herself in a situation where court ordered counseling is needed, counseling services staff are able to meet with a student to provide appropriate referrals to assist the student in meeting his/her court ordered or anticipated court ordered requirements.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Monica Romeo, LMHC, Director, Counseling Services (p:716.286.8536; LL Seton Hall, Niagara University, NY 14109).