



## **NEW PROFESSIONS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

### **Policies and Procedures**

#### **MISSING PERSON**

**Purpose and Definition:** The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the Institute's response to reports of missing students, as required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

This policy applies to all currently enrolled students.

For purposes of this policy, a student may be a "missing person" if the person's absence is contrary to his/her usual pattern of behavior and unusual circumstances may have caused the absence. Such circumstances could include, but not be limited to, a report or suspicion that the missing person may be the victim of foul play, has expressed suicidal thoughts, is drug dependent, is in a life-threatening situation or has been with persons who may endanger the student's welfare.

**Missing/Runaway Person(s):** If a member of New Professions Technical Institute (NPTI) faculty, staff and/or students has reason to believe that a fellow student is missing, all possible efforts are made to locate the student to determine his or her state of health and well-being through the collaboration of the Student Services Director who is also the Clery Act Coordinator (CAC). The CAC will conduct a preliminary investigation in order to verify the complaint and to determine the circumstances which exist relating to the reported missing student. If the student's absence is verified, the incident will be reported and shared throughout the school. The CAC will continue the investigation to locate the missing student. The CAC will also informally enlist the aid of the **City of Miami Police Department (CMPD)** having jurisdiction. The CAC will endeavor to determine the student's whereabouts through contact with friends, associates, and/or employers of the student. Whether or not the student has been attending classes, labs, externships, and scheduled organizational or academic meetings; or appearing for scheduled work shifts will be established.

If located, verification of the student's state of health and intention of returning to the campus is made.

If not located, notification of the family within 24 hours of receiving the initial report is made to determine if they know of the whereabouts of the student. Such notification will be made by the CAC. In addition, appropriate family members or associates are encouraged to make an official

missing person report to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. The CAC will cooperate, aid, and assist the primary investigative agency in all ways prescribed by law. The CAC will open an official investigation and retain status as the primary investigative unit until relieved by the **City of Miami Police Department (CMPD)**.

All pertinent law enforcement agencies, be they neighboring municipal, county, or state; those located along suspected travel corridors; or place of original domicile, will be notified and requested to render assistance.

The gathering of information regarding the missing person will include, but may not be limited to: name, gender, race, date of birth, height, weight, eye color, hair color/length, date/time of last contact, photo availability, possible medicinal usage, address, phone number, S.S. #, full information of vehicle the individual may be operating, names/address/phone number(s)/description(s) of person(s) missing individual may be with.

The following criteria may warrant immediate notification to the **City of Miami Police Department (CMPD)**:

1. The person reported missing has proven physical/mental disability; thereby subjecting him/herself, or others to personal and/or immediate danger.
2. The person reported missing is/was in the company of another person under circumstances indicating his/her physical safety is in danger.
3. The person reported missing is missing under circumstances indicating the disappearance was not voluntary.

"Suzanne's Law" requiring local police to notify the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) when someone between 18 and 21 is reported missing was signed into law by President George W. Bush in the Spring of 2003 as part of the national "Amber Alert" Bill. The federal law is named after Suzanne Lyall, a State University of New York at Albany student who has been missing since 1998. Previously police were only required to report missing persons under the age of 18. This new law is intended to encourage police to begin investigating immediately when college-age people disappear, instead of waiting a day, which has been a common practice. Upon closure of the missing person investigation, all parties previously contacted will be advised of the status of the case.

In accordance with the Higher Education Act of 2008, all students may register a confidential contract with the Office of the Registrar. The confidential contact does not have to be a parent of a student. This is the individual who will be contacted by police in the event the student is reported missing.

This individual will be updated as to the progress of the investigation into the missing person. In the event a student is under 18 years of age and has not been legally emancipated, the student's parents will also be contacted.

A student can be reported missing at any time. The CAC conducts a thorough investigation into all missing persons' reports immediately. NPTI will also enlist the assistance of the **City of Miami Police Department (CMPD)** and other appropriate law enforcement agencies to locate the missing person.

NPTI asks all new students during the enrollment process to provide, on a voluntary basis, emergency contact information in the event of an emergency involving the student during his/her tenure at the Institute.

If a student is suspected of missing from the campus, immediately contact the CAC and the **City of Miami Police Department (CMPD)**.

New Professions Technical Institute  
Student Services  
4000 W. Flagler St., Miami, FL 33134  
305-461-2223

All reports of missing persons made to NPTI and/or the CAC are followed up with an on-going investigation. If it is determined by the Institute that a student for whom a missing person report has been filed has been missing for more than 24 hours, then within the next 24 hours the Institute will:

- Notify the individual identified by the student as the emergency contact
- If the student is under 18 years old, the Institute will notify a parent or guardian.
- In cases where the student is over 18 and has not identified a person to be contacted, the Institute will notify the appropriate law enforcement officials