Simultaneous University, Local, State, or Federal Actions

Summary/Purpose: To make students aware of University conduct processes during simultaneous actions by federal, state, and/or local authorities or courts.

The University of Mississippi’s conduct system is designed to further the University’s educational mission and therefore, it is neither comparable to nor a substitute for any federal, state, or local criminal or civil court system. Thus, even if a violation of University policy also subjects a student or organization to criminal or civil liability, the University conduct system will determine whether University policy has been violated on the basis of preponderance of the evidence (whether it was more likely than not that a violation occurred). Any criminal or civil proceeding may use a different or higher standard of evidence. It is important for students to realize that each judicial proceeding to which they may be subject occurs on a separate track, and it is not necessary for any campus process to be held in abeyance until off-campus proceedings are completed. Nevertheless, the University conduct system may accept a criminal conviction by any trial court of competent jurisdiction as a final factual determination that the student has violated applicable University policy.

The University conduct process does not affect the jurisdiction of the courts and other civil authorities over any University of Mississippi student. Membership in the University community does not create any privilege or immunity from the laws and other regulations that apply equally to all residents of the state of Mississippi.