



# University Youth Programs

Office of Risk, Ethics, & Compliance



## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Case Study Series 2024-2025

VAPING DURING PROGRAM


### NOTE:

The following are actual occurrences from programs for minors across our campus. The objective of this series is to assist you in thinking through the effective risk mitigation of these situations and consider how you and your staff would react to them based on your program's policies and procedures. Although some scenarios may not be applicable to every program, the case studies are good conversation starters and will help you think through how your team should respond.

### Solutions

In small group discussions of these case studies, please consider:

- What would you do if this happened at your program?
- Who should be involved in the situation?
- What resources would you want and use?
- Could this situation have been prevented and how?
- What “aha” moment has this provided you?

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### Part 1

A group of youth is huddled during free time. One of the youth pulls an object out of their pocket. A moment later, your staff sees the youth hold it up to their mouth, and upon closer look, they note the youth making an inhaling motion.

### Part 2

The staff did confirm the youth had a vape. After collecting the one being used, the youth disclosed that their roommate had also been vaping.

### Part 3

After a thorough search of the room, only one other vape was found. The staff confiscated the vapes and held them at the camp office. The parents were all contacted, and the youth were sent home.



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PHYSICAL ALTERCATION - STAFF

### Part 1

The program “hires” volunteers from the community and TAMU staff to work the program. There was a bit of a communication issue on day two because one volunteer staff member did not receive all the details of a schedule change. A TAMU staff member was frustrated with the volunteer/community member for bringing the group of youth too early to the session. The TAMU Staff member made a backhanded remark at the volunteer staff.

### Part 2

The volunteer was very hurt by the remark but didn't say anything in the moment in front of the youth. The following day, during the morning regroup/announcements, the TAMU Staff member made another snarky comment directed at “some of the volunteers.” It was uncomfortable, so the session leader let it slide and changed the subject to daily business. During the daily business updates, the session leader announces group pairs, and as luck would have it, the TAMU Staff member and volunteer in question were paired to the same group of youth. The volunteer decided to make the best of it even when the TAMU Staff rolled their eyes.

### Part 3

Everything moved along smoothly for the morning; however, during the afternoon session, while the youth were lining up to exit the classroom, the volunteer moved towards the exit to lead the youth out. The TAMU Staff moved toward the volunteer and, in an “aggressive tone,” demanded that the volunteer move to the rear and bring up the back. The volunteer took the lead and started for the door. The TAMU Staff member loudly shouted, “Why can't you follow simple directions?” When the volunteer turned to face the TAMU Staff member, he accidentally nudged the TAMU Staff in the elbow, and she used the elbow to hit the volunteer on the chest.



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HEAT RELATED ILLNESS/STROKE

### Part 1

After a walking tour of campus, a camper felt lightheaded, so he decided to sit and rest while the group continued on the tour. The camper did not tell anyone they were stopping, and the group continued on without him. He started to feel a little better, but he wanted some water. He walked into the nearest building to look for a water fountain.

### Part 2

Before he could find a fountain, the boy's knees buckled, and he almost fell. An adult walking by caught the boy and helped him to a bench. They rested for a minute, and the adult gave him water from their own water bottle.

While this was happening, the group leaders walked for just under 30 minutes and then did a head count. They realized the boy was missing and quickly retraced their steps with youth in tow.

### Part 3

The group found the boy and the adult. The boy was not feeling any better and, in fact, had begun to have moments of deliriousness. The adult had called an ambulance. The boy was transported to the hospital and treated for heat-related illness.



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### PHYSICAL INJURY

#### Part 1

During an ice-breaker activity, a camper was asked to bounce on one leg. Bounce one was successful, but on bounce two, her knee gave out, and she fell forward, knocking another camper into a cabinet along the back wall where they were asked to group together. He hit the cabinet with the side of his head. The girl's knee began to swell, and the young boy she bumped into the counter said he felt fine; it was just funny.

#### Part 2

The group leaders were trained by their program director on what to do for most physical injuries. They asked the girl to lie down and be still, and they propped her leg up with a small box. They asked another group leader to get the program director and a bag of ice. Within 4 minutes, the girl was icing her knee. The boy continued with activities, and their small group created a circle that allowed the girl to participate in the discussion without disturbing her knee. The swelling was going down, so the program director left with the situation well in hand.

#### Part 3

During the small group discussion, the boy began to feel nauseous, but because the group leaders were very concerned about the knee and he had stated he was fine after hitting the cabinet, they allowed the young man to go to the restroom and "wash his face with cool water." They did not usually escort youth to the restroom, so this was the usual standard. The boy walked down the hall to wash his face, but when he got to the door, he was disoriented and couldn't open the door. The group leaders found him 15 minutes later lying on the floor outside the restroom. They called 911.





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### SOCIAL MEDIA MISCONDUCT

#### Part 1

A parent contacted the program director because their daughter sent a text from camp stating that three girls from her group had created several profiles on social media and were sending sexually explicit messages and pictures to adult men on each platform. The parent did not know the names of the three girls.

#### Part 2

With permission from the parent, the program director took the daughter out of the current morning session and went to the program office to ask for clarification on what happened. The daughter stated that three of the girls created a TikTok account and were recording inappropriate videos of themselves. The girls also sent direct messages to several “old men” that included the name of the dorm and room number where they could be found.

#### Part 3

The staff sent the young lady back to the camp session, and after lunch (two hours later), they pulled the three girls out of the current afternoon session. After careful questioning, each of the girls confessed to what they’d done and confirmed that the name of the dorm and room numbers were released. The girls stated, “We wanted to get them to come out so we could livestream catching a predator.”