

Texas Woman's University University Regulation and Procedure

Regulation and Procedure Name: Entry, Inspection, and Searches of Student Housing

Regulation and Procedure Number: URP: 06.310

Policy Owner: Student Life

POLICY STATEMENT

Texas Woman's University respects a student's right to privacy; however, the University reserves the right to enter student rooms/apartments for reasonable purposes of room inspection, fire and safety inspection, repairs and maintenance improvements, possible policy violation, and suspicion of an accident, or in the event of epidemic or emergency which jeopardizes the well-being of the occupant or other students in the hall.

Student rooms/apartments may be searched for cause only by authorized civil authorities.

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to TWU Students.

DEFINITIONS

1. "On-campus housing" means any building owned or controlled by the University that is used to house University students.
2. "Reasonable" means the standard of appropriate response that a person of sound judgment or reason would act upon under a given set of circumstances.

REGULATION AND PROCEDURE

I. Procedure

- A. Designated University Personnel are expected and authorized to enter a residence hall room unaccompanied by a resident student to conduct room inspections under the following conditions:

1. To perform reasonable custodial, maintenance, and repair services;
2. To conduct safety checks;
3. To recover university property; and
4. To inspect for damage to university property or cleanliness and/or in case of emergency.

B. If upon entry, the University personnel finds items in plain sight that provide reasonable suspicion that is a violation(s) of University policies, regulations, or protocols are occurring, then the University personnel may seize contraband and/or contact TWU Department of Public Safety (“DPS”). If a visual inspection indicates a possible health or safety threat to the University community, then a more extensive search may be conducted or authorized by the Executive Director of University Housing and Dining. Items that violate University policy, regulations, or protocols may be confiscated and/or discarded.

II. Reasonable Suspicion Room Inspections and Searches

- A. Designated University personnel have the authority to enter and inspect University owned or managed property with or without the consent of the resident student(s) if the official has reasonable suspicion that the property is being used for activities which violate University policies, regulations, or protocols including the Student Code of Conduct, the Residence Life Handbook, and the University Housing and Dining Contract.
- B. Inspections are limited to items and areas related to the reasonable suspicion of violation. However, if other items associated with additional violations and/or health or safety threat are found during the inspection such findings will be noted and items may be seized.
- C. If the inspection provides reasonable suspicion that evidence may be located in a locked or closed area, or on the student’s person, then the TWU DPS will be contacted. If the student resident is not present at the time of the search, then a locked item may be removed from the area with a notice for the student resident requesting access to the locked item.
- D. Residents must comply with designated University personnel when an inspection is being conducted.
- E. Inspections must be based on timely information and be conducted in a timely manner after reasonable suspicion is established.

III. Further Action

- A. Student Code of Conduct Violations will be reported to University Housing and the Director for Civility and Community Standards for conduct review.
- B. Illegal materials or contraband and/or evidence of illegal activity collected during an inspection will be turned over to TWU DPS for further action.
- C. In the case of suspicion of a criminal violation, including but not limited to drug use or possession, the TWU DPS is contacted to accompany University Personnel to inspect the room.
- D. Law enforcement officials may enter, search and seize evidence in accordance with applicable law.

REVIEW

This policy will remain in effect and published until it is reviewed, updated, or archived. This policy is to be reviewed once every six years. Interim review may be required as a result of updates to federal and state law or regulations, Board of Regents policies, or internal processes or procedures.

REFERENCES

[URP 06.200: Student Code of Conduct](#)

FORMS AND TOOLS

None

Publication Date:

Next Review: