



Aug. 19, 2020

Dear Director Steinbaugh,

Thank you for reaching out and providing an opportunity for the University of Missouri (MU) to clarify policies as they pertain to Resident Advisors working in our residence halls and the media.

There is no blanket prohibition against speaking to media. [MU policy](#) does not prohibit staff from speaking to media on matters of public concern. Rather it states that when providing personal comments on issues related to the university, employees should make it clear that they are speaking on their own behalf and not as representatives of MU or any other university employees, offices or organizations.

This MU policy applies to all employees. Residential Life student employees are no exception. Residential Life has a media protocol (copy attached) in its emergency manual for student staff which instructs student employees on how to direct media inquiries; it does not prohibit students from speaking in their personal capacities. Student employees will not be punished for speaking as private citizens on matters of public concern and this point is being clarified with any of our staff who may have misunderstood the university policy.

Sincerely,

Tyler Page
Director, MU Residential Life

Cc: William Stackman, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Stephen J. Owens, General Counsel

Media Protocol

- The department wants to work effectively with the media both in promoting our activities and keeping them informed in the event of crises. This is done through coordination and collaboration with the MU News Bureau (329 Jesse Hall, 573-882-6211). Here are general guidelines for working with the media:
- When contacted by the media, refer reporters to the Associate Director of Residential Life or the MU News Bureau. You may indicate that any contact with the media or official comment from Residential Life is only done by the Associate Director of Residential Life or the News Bureau.
- Follow-up with an email to the Associate Director and the MU News Bureau and the MU News Bureau, notifying them of the referral and the topic.
- Alert your supervisor.
- If reporters are asking for specific details about the institution (e.g. demographics, etc.), refer them to the MU News Bureau (329 Jesse Hall, 573-882-6211).
- Additional guidelines:
 - Reporters are permitted to film outside of the buildings. They should only be asked to move if they are creating an obstruction or interfering with normal operations.
 - Reporters are not permitted to film inside the building. Exceptions are made during move-in or other special events, but the Associate Director of Residential Life or the News Bureau must approve any exceptions.
 - With permission of a student, reporters may come into the building but can only film, photograph and/or record audio in the student's personal room with expressed permission of all room-/suitemate(s).
- If in doubt, don't hesitate to contact the MU News Bureau for assistance. For questions after hours professional staff may contact Christian Basi at 573-228-0886 (cell) or Liz McCune at 573-239-7408 (cell).