

# Know Your Rights

## Protests and Rallies on Campus

### A guide to Mason's rules

*This campaign intends to ensure a level playing field for everyone at Mason, by spreading awareness about rules for protests and rallies for students, members of the general public, and faculty.*



- **Sound Policy ([Policy 1128](#))** – **Amplified sound** (speakers, megaphones, etc.) **cannot exceed 65 decibels**, around normal talking levels, cannot be used before 7:00 AM or after 10:00 PM Thurs-Sun, or after 11:00 PM on Fri & Sat, and **cannot be used adjacent to classrooms/dorms/libraries**
- **Space Policy ([Policy 1103](#))** – **Open areas can be used by anyone** as long as they **don't interfere with people's education or safety**, and are lawful, but official events that've reserved spaces(ex. Wilkin's, near Southside) have priority
- **Poster Policy ([Policy 1109](#))** – Unless it's in a "**Special Campus Area**," posters are free to go on bulletin boards in buildings, signs in ground where plants aren't growing, and chalk on ground exposed to rain. **Unless they have unlawful content** (including harassment, incitement, etc.) they can stay up. **If you think a poster breaks rules & should be taken down or if you have poster/sign questions, contact [OBS](#)**

*George Mason University has always been the place of spirited public debate, but there are still rules everyone, student or not, has to follow. Freedom of speech is an important principle to George Mason and the Student Government, and no rules can or should be used to silence someone just because you disagree with them.*



*For questions about policies, reach out to the contacts or offices mentioned on their linked page.*

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### A guide to Mason's rules cont.

- **General Public Policy** ([Policy 1140](#)) – Members of the general public (non-staff/students) cannot be in “educational enclaves”, such as academic, admin, sports, etc. buildings, without being there for an event or university-related purpose, so disruptive non-staff/students can be asked to leave these areas
- Mason PD at [\(703\) 993-2810](tel:7039932810) can be called to address violations of above policies, but freedom of speech comes first. If you do call, location & time of any incidents should be mentioned
- **The Code of Student Conduct** has rules against ‘breaching the peace’, threatening or inflicting harm, and refusing to show a university official an ID if requested as part of enforcing the policies. RSOs are considered responsible for infractions committed by members & guests at their events
- **Read the entire policy at the links above if you think there’s an issue, for yourself or others, because the summaries do not cover every detail**

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*This page intends to present materials and forms that the university offers regarding freedom of speech, such as for reservations, reporting incidents, and the code of student conduct.*



- If your rights have been violated, submit a report and details on the [Incident Reporting Form](#) to be connected to sources of assistance
- An act of “intolerance, hate, harassment, or exclusion” can be reported to the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#), which will use information to connect people to campus units and resources
- Reservations are made through the [Office of University Events](#). Student/staff groups need to use 25Live and external groups use the [External Client Form](#)
- The [Event Procedures Manual](#) lists rules for scheduling and conduct at events
- If you feel unsafe walking on campus, you can call for an escort from Mason PD at [\(703\) 993-2810](#) at any time
- The [Code of Student Conduct](#) lists all the rules students are expected to follow and that RSOs are held responsible for the conduct of members at official events. However, there is a process to investigate and appeal
- Violations of the Code of Student Conduct can be reported [here](#)

*George Mason's Student Government is committed to the principle of free speech and protecting the wellbeing of our students. This guide to Mason's rules and resources was written by Student Senator Griffin Crouch and approved by the Student Senate. Any questions about the guide itself can be directed to [gcrouch3@gmu.edu](mailto:gcrouch3@gmu.edu). All information is sourced from university policies and websites as of November 2023.*



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