



CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A CROSS-CULTURAL SETTING

International Student and Scholar Services

NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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International Student or Scholar Committing a Crime in the Campus Community

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Sometimes, our students and scholars find themselves in legal trouble for committing a crime in the campus community. In such cases, advisers should help advocate for the most appropriate and suitable outcome for the individual. The international student and scholar services office can utilize this checklist to assemble appropriate crisis management contacts and identify required action steps.

For additional guidance and resources on ways to respond in the event an international student or scholar commits a crime, read “International Student or Scholar Committing a Crime in the Campus Community” in *Crisis Management in a Cross-Cultural Setting*, which can be purchased online from the [NAFSA bookstore](#).

CONDENSED CHECKLIST

Precrisis Considerations:

- Office staff (including student staff) should have training on safety procedures, how to manage difficult/challenging visitors, how to get help if they feel threatened, and a documented escape plan.
- Have crisis procedures in place before a crisis happens.
- Know who is a part of your institution’s crisis management team.
- Provide information to international students and scholars on seeking help for a fellow student or scholar who is having difficulty.
- Have contact information available on immigration attorneys, criminal attorneys, consulates, and embassies.

Responding to an On-Campus Crime:

- If there is a crime victim who is an international student or scholar, determine the needs of the victim.
- Determine what needs, if any, the alleged suspect may have.
- Assemble the crisis management team.
- If there are family members of the accused, have a plan to reach out to them and provide support.
- Consider the needs of any dependents who are living in the United States.
- Speak with office staff (including student staff) to determine if they require support and/or services to help cope after a crisis has occurred.

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CONDENSED CHECKLIST

- Prepare for contacts from print, television, Internet, and social media.
- Prepare for contacts from faculty, staff, and other students or scholars regarding the crisis, and identify ahead of time who will manage those contacts.
- Sponsored international students and scholars or participants in an exchange program—report the crime to the student or scholar’s sponsored or participating institution abroad.
- If any international students or scholars lived with the accused, contact them to see if they require support.
- Determine if there is a need for a formal response or message from your office.
- Enlist support from counseling center.
- Consider the impact of the crime on the larger international student and scholar population.

Postcrisis Considerations:

- Debrief with other administrators and office staff.
- Remember to take care of yourself. Crises can be traumatic.