

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 51.9315, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE
PROTECTED EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS (Senate Bill 18, 86th Texas Legislature)**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (“MD Anderson”) is committed to protecting the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and of this state by (1) recognizing freedom of speech and assembly as central to the mission of institutions of higher education; and (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents updated Regents’ Rules and Regulations 40501, 80101, and 80103 to ensure that the common outdoor areas of MD Anderson are traditional public forums.

MD Anderson updated its policy detailing students’ and workforce members’ rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the policy on May 6, 2020. The policy complies with the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code and is posted on MD Anderson’s website at:

- <https://www.mdanderson.org/about-md-anderson/business-legal/legal-and-policy/legal-statements/expressive-activities-on-campus.html>
- <https://www.mdanderson.org/education-training/degrees-programs/school-of-health-professions/current-students.html>

The policy was made available to students via e-mail as an addendum to their student handbooks and will be made available to new students during all student orientations and included in future student handbooks. All MD Anderson workforce members were notified of the policy and associated processes through an employee notification webpage. The policy is also included in the Institution’s online policy repository which serves a similar function as a personnel handbook.

MD Anderson emphasized that employees responsible for educating or disciplining students ensure they understand our internal policies reflecting the requirements of Section 51.9315 for the current Academic Year and will develop additional procedures to train employees moving forward. Additionally, a workgroup was established and trained to review all matters relating to expressive activities, including potential policy violations and sanctions.