

PHI GAMMA DELTA'S STANCE ON HAZING

Contrary to society's stereotypes and the images often portrayed in movies and television, hazing has never been an endorsed or encouraged method for a man to be "trained" or for him to "earn" his membership in a fraternity. In fact, hazing is directly contrary to the values and mission of Phi Gamma Delta, especially those expressed by our Founders in the ritual. Unfortunately, hazing creeps into Greek organizations far too often.

Definition of Hazing

Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on an outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual, or policy, or the regulations and policies of the educational institution, or applicable state law.

We must be diligent to keep it out for numerous reasons:

- Separation and animosity
The ultimate goal of bringing new men into the Fraternity is to make it stronger and to perpetuate its existence for the benefit of those who come after us. Hazing weakens the chapter by building animosity and separation between pledges and brothers that lasts well beyond pledgeship. For example, initiated brothers might tell pledges that they need to learn unity, "bond," and become better pledges by completing what amount to meaningless and unproductive tasks while they are harassed. In fact, they are being isolated from the initiated brothers in this adversarial relationship, and the pledges (those who stick around) will resent the older brothers for years to come.
- False unity
Rather than isolating pledges and trying to force "pledge class unity," a Phi Gam chapter that is true to the mission, tradition, and history of the Fraternity will bring the pledges closer to the brotherhood by focusing on chapter unity, working side by side, rather than as separate entities. It's teamwork as a collective group.
- Laziness
Hazing is perpetuated by laziness in the brotherhood. By relying on the pledges to handle all sorts of assigned tasks and duties (particularly house cleaning), the brothers rest on their laurels and only one quarter of the chapter's membership is truly being productive.

- Risk of injury or death

Sadly, there are plenty of documented hazing activities have escalated into incidents of physical and/or mental harm, even death. And while the planners of the activity may have never intended for harm to result, situations of this nature tend to spiral out of control. A prime example is the tragic death of Scott Krueger, a Fiji pledge at MIT. In 1997, on a night when Scott and his pledge brothers were introduced to their big brothers, the pledge class was given cases of beer and bottles of liquor and strongly encouraged to consume it a short amount of time. Scott ingested enough to pass out, and when he did, he was placed on a couch to “sleep it off.” He vomited in his sleep, inhaled his vomit, and was found as he went into cardiac arrest. While doctors were able to save his body, he was brain dead, and his family made the heartbreaking decision to unplug his life support. The subsequent lawsuit was settled against the chapter officers, the pledge educator, and the International Fraternity for amounts in excess of several million dollars.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Phi Gamma Delta, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), and your institution have explicit laws and regulations against hazing. The penalties for violations are swift and serious.

IMPORTANT FRATERNITY LAWS

The following excerpts are from the Bylaws of the International Fraternity and must be upheld by all pledges and brothers, both undergraduate and graduate. Read them carefully and be well aware of their content. We are expected to always follow these laws, regardless of time or place. If you have any questions concerning these laws, or if you believe they are being violated, you are obligated (as is every brother) to report and confront the problem for the preservation and betterment of the Fraternity.

Hazing and Pre-Initiation Activities

Section 19.35 Prohibition of Hazing

“No chapter shall allow any of its pledges, members, or other persons to participate in any pre-initiation or hazing ceremony or practice which involves physical exhaustion or abuse, or would in any way interfere with the person’s mental or physical ability to perform college work efficiently or tend to reflect unfavorably upon the Fraternity in the eyes of the public, or is of a dangerous, rude, or vulgar nature, whether taking place within or without the chapter house. For any infraction of this section, the Archons may impose the penalties and sanctions described in Section 25.12 and 25.28.”

Section 25.12 Prohibition of Hazing

“No chapter shall allow any of its pledges, members, or other persons to participate in any pre-initiation or hazing ceremony or practice which involves physical exhaustion or abuse, or would in any way interfere with the person’s mental or physical ability to

perform college work efficiently or tend to reflect unfavorably upon the Fraternity in the eyes of the public, or is of a dangerous, rude, or vulgar nature, whether taking place within or without the chapter house. For any infraction of Section 19.35 prohibiting hazing, the Chapter or the Archons may find such individual, if a pledge, guilty of an offense punishable by revocation of pledgship, and if a member, guilty of an offense punishable by suspension.”

Section 25.28 Prohibition of Hazing

For any infraction of Section 19.35 prohibiting hazing, the Archons may place any chapter on graduate trusteeship for a period not exceeding the end of the school year following the second year in which the infraction occurs and/or may levy a fine not to exceed \$5000.00 payable to the Operating Fund, the severity of such penalties to be as determined by the Archons after consideration of all of the relevant facts and circumstances of the infraction.

EXAMPLES OF HAZING ACTIVITIES

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Even if an activity is the “voluntary” decision of a pledge class, it occurs because the chapter has created an expectation for it and may be considered hazing.

While not an all-inclusive list, below are some examples of hazing activities (adapted from www.stophazing.org)

- Deception
- Assigning demerits
- Silence periods with implied threats for violation
- Deprivation of privileges granted to other members
- Requiring new members to perform duties not assigned to other members
- Socially isolating new members
- Line-ups and Drills/Tests on meaningless information
- Name calling
- Requiring new members to refer to other members with titles (e.g. “Mr.,” “Miss”) while they are identified with demeaning terms
- Expecting certain items to always be in one's possession
- Verbal abuse
- Threats or implied threats
- Asking new members to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire
- Stunt or skit nights with degrading, crude, or humiliating acts
- Expecting new members to perform personal service to other members such as carrying books, errands, cooking, cleaning etc
- Sleep deprivation

- Sexual simulations
- Expecting new members to be deprived of maintaining a normal schedule of bodily cleanliness.
- Be expected to harass others Forced or coerced alcohol or other drug consumption
- Beating, paddling, or other forms of assault
- Branding
- Forced or coerced ingestion of vile substances or concoctions
- Burning
- Water intoxication
- Expecting abuse or mistreatment of animals
- Public nudity
- Expecting illegal activity
- Bondage
- Abductions/kidnaps
- Exposure to cold weather or extreme heat without appropriate protection

IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR FEEL YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ANY HAZING ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY CONTACT:

**Bill Martin
Executive Director
Phi Gamma Delta International Headquarters
(Confidentially and collect if necessary) (859) 255-1848.**

Additionally, Phi Gamma Delta Participates in the National Anti-Hazing Hotline.

As part of the ongoing attempt to end hazing on college campuses and particularly in Greek organizations, Phi Gamma Delta has joined 18 international fraternities and sororities to establish a national Anti-Hazing Hotline. The toll-free number is **1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293)**. The line is available to those who think they, or students they know, have been or may be made victims of hazing. Callers may remain anonymous or they can provide personal information so that their concerns can be responded to directly.

