

# The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

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## Standards For Retention Of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter In Good Standing

*Each member, officer, chapter and colony of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity shall comply with certain standards to maintain their membership in good standing with the Fraternity, his position as an officer of the chapter, its charter as a chapter of the Fraternity, and as a prerequisite for a colony to obtain a charter. These standards are as follows:*

### ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. The possession, use and/or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on chapter premises, during an official fraternity event, or in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, county, city and university.
2. OPEN PARTIES, meaning those activities where alcohol is present which have unrestricted access by non-members of the Fraternity, without specific invitation, shall be prohibited.
3. No member shall permit, tolerate, encourage or participate in "drinking games" at a Fraternity sponsored event.
4. The possession, sale and/or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS or CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES at any chapter house, sponsored event, or at any event that an observer would associate with the Fraternity, is strictly prohibited.
5. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through the chapter treasury nor may the purchase of same for the members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of or on behalf of the chapter.
6. All chapters will implement and adhere to non-alcoholic formal rush programs.

### HAZING

1. No member or chapter shall conduct hazing activities. Hazing is defined as:
  - Any form of physical abuse;
  - Any activity that might reasonably be expected to bring embarrassment or psychological harm to the individual;
  - Any activity that might reasonably be expected to bring physical harm to the individual; Any activity that might reasonably be expected to degrade or otherwise compromise the dignity of the individual;
  - Any activity that might reasonably be expected to require an unreasonable or inordinate amount of the individual's time, or in any manner impair the individual's academic efforts;
  - Any activity that might reasonably be expected to make the individual an object of amusement or ridicule;
  - The required consumption of any liquid, gas or solid matter;
  - Any requirement which compels an individual to participate in any activity which is illegal or contrary to the individual's genuine moral and/or religious beliefs, or contrary to the rules and regulations of the educational institution.
2. Each member and pledge shall refuse to participate in any hazing activity, and shall refuse to permit hazing from being inflicted upon them.
3. The "Chapter Statement of Position on Hazing" shall be presented to, and signed by, each new pledge and the chapter's pledge educator. One copy should be retained for the chapter's files, and one copy should be provided to each individual whose signature appears.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

1. No member or chapter shall participate in any form of sexually abusive behavior, whether physical, mental or emotional. This includes any actions that are demeaning to individuals, including but not limited to date rape, gang rape, verbal harassment, or publications that diminish a person's integrity.

### FIRE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. All chapter houses should, prior to, during, and following occupancy, meet all local fire and health codes and standards.
2. All chapters should have posted by common phones emergency numbers for fire, police, and ambulance and must have posted evacuation routes on the back of the door of each sleeping room.
3. All chapters and housing corporations should comply with reasonable engineering recommendations, which are financially feasible to the chapter and housing corporation, as reported by the insurance company.

### EDUCATION

1. At the onset of each academic period, the chapter president shall present these standards to the full chapter membership. Annually, each chapter shall educate every member and pledge in proper risk awareness practices, and should have a written chapter-specific risk awareness program that is maintained and presented to the chapter on an annual basis.
2. The Memorial Headquarters shall be notified, within 24 hours, of any situation or event that may have been inconsistent with these standards.

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## STANDARDS FOR RETENTION OF MEMBERSHIP, OFFICER STATUS AND CHAPTER CHARTER IN GOOD STANDING

Chapters and members that conduct themselves in accordance to these Standards shall be considered in good standing with the Fraternity, eligible to receive the benefits, support and resources included therein. These standards also serve as a prerequisite for obtaining a charter of the Fraternity.

### SIGNATURES:

#### Chapter/Colony President

I have read The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Standards for Retention of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter in Good Standing to the active chapter at a regularly scheduled meeting, and will do so again at the first meeting of each school term, or will instruct my successor to do so. The Standards have also been posted in a conspicuous place within the chapter/colony house, if the chapter/colony has a house, and will remain posted throughout the year. I understand that I may be suspended from office and/or expelled from the Fraternity, or my chapter's charter may be suspended, if I fail, or my chapter fails, to comply with these standards. (For colonies: I understand that failure to comply with these standards may result in a discontinuation of affiliation with the Fraternity.)

Chapter/Colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chapter/Colony President*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEDGE EDUCATOR

I have read The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Standards for Retention of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter in Good Standing in addition to the Chapter Statement of Position on Hazing to the pledge class at a regularly scheduled meeting and will instruct my successor to do the same at the first meeting of the next pledge class. I understand that I may be suspended from office and/or expelled from the Fraternity, or my chapter's charter may be suspended, if I fail, or my chapter fails, to comply with these standards. As testimony to my understanding of these precepts, I have signed and also witnessed each new pledge's signature on the Chapter Position on Hazing. (For colonies: I understand that failure to comply with these standards may result in a discontinuation of affiliation with the Fraternity.)

Chapter/Colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Pledge Educator*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Treasurer

I have read The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Standards for Retention of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter in Good Standing and agree not to authorize or spend any chapter funds on any activity or program that is in violation thereof. I understand that I may be suspended from office and/or expelled from the Fraternity, or my chapter's charter may be suspended, if I fail, or my chapter fails, to comply with these standards. (For colonies: I understand that failure to comply with these standards may result in a discontinuation of affiliation with the Fraternity.)

Chapter/Colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Treasurer*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### RISK AWARENESS CHAIRMAN

I have read The Pi Kappa Alpha Standards for Retention of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter in Good Standing and agree to uphold the duties of my office as outlined in Chapter XIII, Section 12 of the Pi Kappa Alpha *Constitution and Laws*.

Chapter/Colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chapter Risk Awareness Chairman*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHAPTER/COLONY ADVISOR

I certify that the chapter/colony officers have read and affirmed their commitment to me to abide by The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Standards for Retention of Membership, Officer Status and Chapter Charter in Good Standing, and have provided, and completed, the Chapter Statement of Position on Hazing for each new pledge.

Chapter/Colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chapter/Colony Advisor*

# Chapter Statement of Position on Hazing: List of Activities

Experience has proven that pledge education is one of the most important programming areas for a fraternity. In evaluating the long-term success and stability of any chapter, those chapters that exert the necessary time and energy into the development of a constructive, non-hazing, pledge education program encounter the most prosperity. These groups initiate undergraduates who understand their fraternal responsibilities as active members, and have the tools to immediately contribute to the success of the chapter. Chapters should be straightforward about the purpose of the pledge period, defining the kinds of acceptable behavior. The following list identifies some constructive programming ideas collected from a variety of successful Pi Kappa Alpha chapters, as well as some destructive pledge activities that have been a source of problems for chapters.

## Constructive Pledge Activities

- ♦ Holding mandatory study sessions
- ♦ Scheduling pledge class goal setting retreat
- ♦ Educating each pledge on the responsibilities of each chapter officer, chairman and chapter operations
- ♦ Expecting high scholastic performance
- ♦ Conducting meetings exclusively for pledges
- ♦ Preparing a pledge class publication and directory
- ♦ Sponsoring pledge class rush events for prospective members
- ♦ Appointing or electing officers and chairmen of the pledge class by the pledge class
- ♦ Participating in team building exercises such as a ropes course, paint ball and bowling
- ♦ Expecting basic knowledge of Pi Kappa Alpha; its ideals and principles
- ♦ Educating pledges on proper social and personal development
- ♦ Involving pledges in campus activities and other recognized student organizations
- ♦ Participating in intramural events and leagues

## Destructive Pledge Activities

- Forcing consumption of food or alcohol
- Requiring pledges to line up or walk in a particular way
- Expecting pledges to perform any sort of calisthenics or form of physical training
- Forcing pledges to wear any type of clothing which is embarrassing
- Expecting pledges to use separate entrances to a house or housing facility
- Requiring pledges to carry items such as rocks, coins, paddles, books, food, etc
- Preventing or restricting class attendance or sleep
- Mandating any sort of personal servitude
- Requiring the practice of observing periods of silence
- Forcing strenuous physical activities
- Mandating the application of any sort of substance to pledges' bodies
- Marking or branding of pledges' physical bodies

Some activities are easily categorized as hazing. Others may not be so easily classified. If you're not sure, consider the following questions:

- Is the activity an educational experience?
- Does the activity promote or confirm the values of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity?
- Will the activity increase respect for Pi Kappa Alpha by non affiliated individuals?
- Do pledges and initiated members participate **together** or **equally** in the activity?
- Would you be willing to allow parents to witness the activity?
- Would you be able to defend the activity in a court of law?
- Does the activity have value in and of itself?

*A good rule to follow when deciding whether or not an activity is hazing is:*

***If you have to ask if what you're doing is hazing, it probably is.***

# CHAPTER STATEMENT OF POSITION ON HAZING

(to be read at first meeting of each new pledge class and signed by those indicated below)

Congratulations on having accepted a bid to become a pledge and prospective brother in the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at \_\_\_\_\_ University or College. Our Chapter has a long and successful tradition, and we look forward to your participation as a future brother, not only during your undergraduate days, but through the fellowship you find here throughout your life.

Our Chapter recognizes and strictly follows the **Pi Kappa Alpha Standards for Retention of Membership** which include a standard of **“absolutely no hazing”**. You may have experienced hazing in high school, either as a new member of an athletic team, a school band or a school social group. You may have seen hazing glorified in movies. Hazing can take many forms. The most serious is direct physical abuse, such as a pledge being paddled, to a milder form, such as push-ups, to subtler approaches, such as drinking games with the brothers. We at \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter want you to know that hazing is not acceptable conduct for any of our members to inflict upon any of our pledges and that pledges should not submit to any form of hazing as a condition of membership.

Please understand that you should **refuse to participate in any hazing** activity and, more importantly, to **refuse to permit hazing** being inflicted upon you. The Chapter requests and expects you to refuse to participate in hazing. A list of activities which are generally considered to be hazing is attached hereto. In order to prevent any confusion, we are also attaching a list of activities which are not considered to be hazing, but could involve your input or participation.

If anyone approaches you and asks you to participate in an activity which you think is hazing:

- You should refuse to participate in hazing; and
- know that such refusal will not place your membership in Pi Kappa Alpha at risk; and
- you shall decline to participate in hazing and immediately report it to a Chapter officer. If an officer is not available, then report it to another member who is not involved in the activity.

Some activities are obvious, such as attempted physical abuse, whereas other activities may be more subtle and may require an interpretation. Either way, you should be assured that no adverse action will be taken against you by the attempted “hazer” or by the Chapter in regard to your membership. In fact, we will not allow the attempted “hazer” to have any influence over you or your status or to have any input regarding your transition from pledgeship status to brotherhood, such as a vote.

The purpose in giving you this information is not because any of our members have stated that they intend to haze pledges. However, when there are several personalities in a Chapter, there is a remote possibility that some individual may, on the spur of the moment, ignore the Chapter’s prohibition on hazing, and attempt a hazing activity with a pledge. We want you to understand your rights and not be intimidated. If you are hazed, you should simply “walk away” from the attempted hazing without leaving the chapter. **Furthermore, you have a personal responsibility not to condone any sort of hazing.**

This information is given to you in duplicate and we are asking that you sign the top copy and retain the bottom one for your records.

Pledge Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Educator’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

President’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_