

CHAPTER STATEMENT OF POSITION ON HAZING

(To be read at first meeting of each new member class and signed by those indicated below.)

Congratulations on having accepted a bid to become a new member and prospective brother in _____ Chapter of The Pi Kappa Alpha International 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 International Fraternity Standards*, 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 new member being paddled, to a milder form, such as pushups, 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 new members and that new members 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 new membership 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 new members. 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 new member. 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.

New Member: _____ Date: _____

New Member Educator: _____ Date: _____

President: _____ Date: _____

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List of Activities

Experience has proven that new member 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, new member 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 new member 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 new member activities that have been a source of problems for chapters.

Constructive New Member Activities

- ◆ Holding mandatory study sessions
- ◆ Scheduling new member class goal setting retreat
- ◆ Educating each new member on the responsibilities of each chapter officer, chairman and chapter operations
- ◆ Expecting high scholastic performance
- ◆ Conducting meetings exclusively for new members
- ◆ Preparing a new member class publication and directory
- ◆ Sponsoring new member class rush events for prospective members
- ◆ Appointing or electing officers and chairmen of the new member class by the new member 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 new members on proper social and personal development
- ◆ Involving new members in campus activities and other recognized student organizations
- ◆ Participating in intramural events and leagues

Destructive New Member Activities

- ◆ Forcing consumption of food or alcohol
- ◆ Requiring new members to line up or walk in a particular way
- ◆ Expecting new members to perform any sort of calisthenics or form of physical training
- ◆ Forcing new members to wear any type of clothing which is embarrassing
- ◆ Expecting new members to use separate entrances to a house or housing facility
- ◆ Requiring new members 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 new members' bodies
- ◆ Marking or branding of new members' 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 Fraternity?
- ◆ Will the activity increase respect for Pi Kappa Alpha by non-affiliated individuals?
- ◆ Do new members 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.