

## **ALPHA HAZING WORKSHOP**

*Prior to the workshop, the facilitator places different signs around the room - "Agree," "Disagree," and "Unsure." After reading each prompt, instruct the group to stand by the sign the represents their opinion. Allow for discussion of each topic before continuing, and bring up the specific talking points listed if they are not mentioned by the group. **This activity is NOT a replacement for presenting the entire Kappa Kappa Psi hazing policy or state laws where applicable.***

### **1) Hazing is only a problem for social fraternities and sororities.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Hazing lawsuits threaten the fraternity's existence.
- Many band programs also have hazing problems. When indoctrinated band members become brothers they are more likely to think that hazing is OK.

### **2) If the candidate agrees to participate in an activity, it cannot be considered hazing.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Candidates trust and respect the brotherhood can easily be persuaded into agreeing to something that makes them uncomfortable.
- Making an activity "optional" does not make it OK. Because the brotherhood ultimately determines if a candidate is initiated, they will likely believe that all activities are actually mandatory.

### **3) It can only considered hazing if there is malicious intent behind the action/event.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Hazing isn't always the intent, it can also be the effect.
- Subtle hazing activities seem playful or harmless more often then not.

**4) Hazing is an effective way to teach respect and develop discipline.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Hazing can also stamp out the initiative, volunteerism and spirit of service that made the candidate look like good brother material to begin with.
- Hazing always promotes ill will between the hazer and the hazed, even if it isn't vocalized. This causes division in the brotherhood after the candidate is initiated.
- It is not within the scope of the fraternity's mission to develop discipline within its members. A worthwhile prospective member should already possess these qualities.

**5) Hazing is no more than foolish pranks that sometimes go awry.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Something that seems like a fun prank may be traumatizing for the candidate based on his/her background. The brotherhood can never rule this possibility out because the candidate may be uncomfortable talking about it.
- "Sorry, it went awry" would not be a defense the court of law after a candidate was traumatized, injured or killed by a hazing activity.

**5) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Tying a person to a chair, pole, anchor, tree, or any other object of person.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: YES! This would be hazing regardless of the circumstance.

**6) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Requiring candidates to take tests during their candidacy to evaluate their commitment to the Fraternity.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: NO! This would not likely be a hazing activity.

**7) The following is an example of hazing.**

**Blindfolding members on the way to a special event so that the location can be a surprise.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: YES! This is both hazing and extremely dangerous. Even a minor car accident could cause serious injury or death to a blindfolded individual. They have no way of bracing themselves for impact.

**8) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Everyone has hectic schedules this semester, so instead of taking the time to work something else out the candidates and VPM decide to have their meetings starting at midnight, not allowing anyone to come home until after 1 a.m.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: YES! Membership education activities can not take place between the hours of 1am and 7am. As stated above, even if the candidate agrees or suggests the activity it is still hazing.

**8) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Requiring all candidates to memorize the fraternity's preamble.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: NO! This is probably not hazing. Knowing the preamble well is a practical tool for all brothers. Learning disabilities and the method of testing this knowledge would be the likely way that this could turn into a hazing event.

**10) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Having the candidates perform a "scavenger hunt" where clues lead them on a walking tour of important campus landmarks.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: NO! This is not a hazing activity. It is an education event that also promotes brotherhood and team building. Other "scavenger hunts" might be hazing if they involve candidates participating in illegal, humiliating or dangerous activities. This activity would also be inappropriate if cars were involved.

**11) The following is an example of hazing:**

**Leading a candidate to believe that there will be negative repercussions for doing personal chores, whether there actually will be or not.**

Discussion:

- (Discussion from the group)
- Answer: YES! You can not mislead candidates about their status with the fraternity. As we established above, even if the candidate had agreed without the false pretense this would still be hazing!