

PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY

510 LOCKERBIE STREET * INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46202-3694 * 317-632-1852 * FAX 317-637-1898

An Edict of the Executive Council of Phi Kappa Psi

The fraternity experience is shaped largely, often decisively, by pledgship. Throughout the initial period of Fraternity Education, the pledge learns what is expected of him as a prospective member and what the Fraternity can mean to his life. Pledgship should prepare him to accept the responsibilities of membership, to develop his best potentialities, and to meet the demands of academic life. These aims require a commitment from the Chapter to do everything within its power to support those persons who pledge themselves to earn the privilege of initiation. At the very least, the Chapter is responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of its pledges.

Phi Kappa Psi has traditionally encouraged thoughtfully planned, sensibly administered pledgship programs that reflect the humane values essential to the Fraternity's existence. Although these programs vary from Chapter to Chapter and from generation to generation, each must be a sound and effective means of bringing the greatest possible benefit to the individual pledge. However much a given program may be different in its form, scope, emphasis, or intensity, it must be consistent with the principles of the Fraternity and the ideals of a civilized society.

In light of these convictions, Phi Kappa Psi refuses to tolerate hazing—the physical or mental abuse inflicted on pledges. Whatever form it takes—humiliating pranks, stunts, or attire, “road trips,” “snipe hunts,” and other hazardous, antisocial or unlawful activities; deprivation of sleep and food; personal servitude; harassment at the “line-ups” and work sessions; punitive calisthenics; paddling or any other action intended to degrade or intimidate a person—hazing subverts and corrupts the true experience of fraternity. In its more extreme forms, hazing risks human lives, brutalizes everyone involved, and jeopardizes the very existence of the Chapter and, moreover, of the entire Fraternity.

Hazing is a recurrent blight that can attack any chapter whenever a few persons attempt to substitute force for reason, and expediency for understanding. Such persons seem to believe that arbitrarily subjecting pledges to a series of ordeals will make them fit to become Brothers; that fear will somehow make them disciplined and mature. Even though such methods may seem efficient in the short run, there can finally be no justification whatsoever for hazing, for it destroys the values of kindness, generosity, and compassion that the Fraternity's teaching of brotherly love affirms.

Accordingly, the Executive Council of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity directs all members, Chapters, and Alumni Associations to oppose hazing and to stop it immediately wherever it may now exist. Any member who engages in hazing risks expulsion from the Fraternity, and any Chapter that practices or condones hazing risks suspension or revocation of its charter. Chapter officers, alumni advisors, and directors of House Corporation boards should be alert to take firm action against hazing. Further, the Executive Council holds the House Corporation board of each

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Chapter particularly responsible for making sure that hazing is prohibited.

The moral integrity of Phi Kappa Psi is inseparable from the conduct of its members. It is enough for the Fraternity to celebrate the dignity of man in its teachings; each member must accept as a personal obligation the upholding of basic human rights. As men of honor and good will, the members of Phi Kappa Psi cannot allow the Fraternity to be debased by so mean a practice as hazing. Both decency and honor require that the principles of the Fraternity be borne out in the actions of its Chapters.

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