

PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY

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

Men's Health Issues and HIV/AIDS

This Statement of Position is issued to provide education, direction, and guidance to the Fraternity in men's health issues that will, in all likelihood, threaten the tranquility and well-being of the Brotherhood and its chapters. Due to the growth of and life-threatening nature of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the latter stage of disease caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Statement of position is specifically related to the HIV/AIDS disease, however its precepts are directly applicable to a broad spectrum of men's health issues.

The Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity acknowledges the following facts regarding HIV/AIDS:

- There is no known cure for HIV/AIDS and all who become infected with the disease will die.
- Between 1.5 and 3 million Americans have HIV and those numbers continue to grow, especially among young men of college age.
- Transmission of the virus via heterosexual contact is the fastest growing segment of reported cases of AIDS.
- HIV can live undetected in the body for up to 12 years with no evident side-effects or symptoms.
- A person may be HIV positive, not know it, and yet be fully capable of infecting others.

Therefore, the Executive Council of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity encourages annual educational activities concerning HIV/AIDS for all chapters and colonies. The educational program should reinforce the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS, focus on factual information on how the disease is spread and provide information on the results of contracting the disease. Campus and local resource groups should be utilized whenever possible in the delivery of the educational program.

Phi Kappa Psi will provide each chapter and colony with accurate, sensible, and up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS awareness and risk reduction practices, including how to implement 'universal precautions' regarding transmission of the disease, as established by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Further, any member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity with HIV/AIDS is entitled to the same level of compassion and support that is given any other person with a life-taking illness or disease. Any infected member is entitled to participate fully in chapter affairs and should be given all opportunities to excel that are open to other members as long as he is physically able and desirous of such participation.

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Chapter leaders are expected to act in the interest of the Fraternity at large, and may be expected to take such measure as are necessary and appropriate to protect the welfare of all members. Such measures should be both considerate and humane, and reinforce a network of

support and compassion. As part of this policy, any chapter situation that involves a member or pledge who is HIV positive should be promptly and discretely brought to the attention of the Executive Director.

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