



## **HAZING! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!\***

**(If you have to ask, it probably is...)**

Hazing is a criminal offense in more than 40 states. Liability insurance does not usually cover a criminal act—in other words, if you are involved in hazing, and the victim names you in a lawsuit, the national liability insurance policy may not provide coverage, which includes paying for an attorney to represent you.

This list of hazing activities and examples is intended as a guide. It is not complete. With few exceptions, singling out new or pledged members to do something that members do not have to do is hazing. Ask yourselves: Would you feel comfortable if the parents of your pledged members were present during the activity? Consent by new or pledged members or a member is not a defense to hazing.

### **Examples:**

- Forced or "required" road trips off campus, kidnaps of pledged or initiated members. This prohibition does not affect trips to events or, for example, to the headquarters. It addresses situations, for example, in which pledged or initiated members are left stranded or who must make a series of stops, have photos taken to verify that they were at a site or sites.
- Any form of physical activities, calisthenics or exercise.
- Scavenger hunts, regardless of whether the hunts promote theft, vandalism, and destruction of property or humiliating public acts
- Paddling, paddle swats, or any other striking, beating, or hitting
- Kidnappings; transporting a pledged or initiated member against his or her will
- All-night work or study sessions
- Forcing or requiring pledged or initiated members to ingest any liquid or solid matter, edible or non-edible (e.g., any alcoholic substance, chewing tobacco, goldfish, raw onions, spoiled food, etc.)
- Dropping food (eggs, grapes, liver, etc.) or any other item into the mouths of pledged or initiated members
- Requiring pledged or initiated members to wear unusual, conspicuous, embarrassing, or uncomfortable clothing, or clothing that is not normally considered to be in good taste (e.g., burlap underwear)
- Uncomfortable or inconvenient sleeping arrangements, including sleeping outdoors
- Pledged member-initiated member games designed to physically harm members of the pledge class
- Pledged member shows performed in front of brothers or sisters
- Sleep deprivation -waking up pledged members repeatedly during the night (pledged members must be allowed at least six continuous, uninterrupted hours of sleep each night, including during pre-initiation and initiation)
- Humiliation in front of non-members by reference to pledgeship
- Verbal abuse such as calling a pledged member "scum" or "maggot"; yelling and screaming at pledged members



- Line-ups of the pledge class, or grilling individuals or groups of pledged members with questions of any kind.
- Preventing a pledged member from practicing personal hygiene, including making him or her wear the same clothes for a week
- Jumping on the "nail" (which actually is a piece of aluminum foil)
- Entering the fraternity house only through a window
- Penalizing pledged members in any way for not having dates to specific events
- Forcing an individual to participate in any activity or become involved in any situation that is in violation of federal, state or local laws; contrary to the person's genuine moral or religious beliefs; or contrary to the rules and regulations of the educational institution or the national fraternity
- Carrying or wearing objects designed to make the pledged or initiated member look foolish
- Physical or mental shocks, regardless of degree or nature
- Unwarranted touching of the body
- Ceremonial burials
- Degrading games and activities
- Public stunts of buffoonery
- Tests of courage, bravery
- Tests of stamina
- Any situation that risks serious harm or damage to an individual, whether physical or mental
- Any activity that might reasonably bring physical harm to the individual
- Any activity that would degrade or otherwise compromise the dignity of the individual
- Any activity that requires an unreasonable or inordinate amount of the individual's time, or in any manner impairs the individual's academic efforts
- Any activity that makes the individual an object of amusement or ridicule
- Subjecting pledged members to roughhouse practices
- Dangerous stunts
- Nudity at any time; causing a pledged or initiated member to be indecently exposed or embarrassed
- Wearing or carrying items such as coconuts, helmets, burlap bags, paddles, or rocks
- Throwing whipped cream, water, paint, etc. on a pledged or initiated member
- Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played at any time (including during pre-initiation week or between portions of the ritual)
- Pushing, shoving or tackling pledged members
- Rat Court, Kangaroo Court, or other individual interrogations
- Memorization of stories, poems, or information not directly related to your fraternity
- Putting pledged members in a room that is uncomfortable (noise, temperature, too small) at any time (including during pre-initiation activities or between portions of the ritual)
- Personal errands run by pledged members for initiated members (servitude)
- Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, panty raids, or harassing another organization
- Initiated members intentionally messing up the house or a room for the pledged members to clean
- Pledged members not permitted adequate time for studies (including during pre-initiation or initiation period)



- Deception prior to the ritual designed to convince a pledged member that he or she will not be initiated
- Lengthy work sessions
- Constantly, or many times a day, or routinely every day, asking pledged members to think about what to expect in the initiation ritual
- Keeping information from the pledged members prior to initiation (date of initiation, time required each day for fraternity duties, etc.)
- Pledged members expected to do anything exclusively for the entertainment of the initiated members
- House duties and cleaning for pledged members that would not normally be assigned to members and that are not shared by initiated members
- Pledged members expected to do anything that initiated members will not do with them
- Black books, name lists, paddles, etc. on which signatures must be obtained. If these are solely for the purpose of getting to know each other and for no other purpose, and as long as the time and the place set for getting signatures are reasonable, this activity is not objectionable
- Pledged member final examination or other written tests
- Pledged versus initiated members in athletic contests that are purposefully unfair and do not promote friendly competition, or instead of teams composed from both groups
- Proof that "every man must be a man"
- Instilling humility in pledged members
- Tradition: "We did it, why shouldn't they?"
- The marking or branding of a pledged or initiated member
- Preventing a pledged or initiated member from attending class
- Running stairs while reciting material
- Purposeless runs for the sake of creating unity
- Pledged or initiated members vehemently booed or hissed at or demeaned when they make a mistake in recitation in front of the chapter
- Having pledged members write lists of their faults, sins, believing they must read them to other members
- Bracing and finger snapping in pledged members' ears
- Any violation of Ritual instructions, procedures or statutes
- Blindfolding pledged members (except for initiation if required by your Ritual)
- Use of ice, water, fire, or food in a manner not consistent with their proper use
- Any use of materials (nails, lumber, clothes, silverware, etc.) in any pledged member activity not consistent with their proper use
- Excessive or particularly hard questioning of pledged member over fraternity information; abusive and extremely pressured questioning of any kind
- War games or any other similar games
- Hot or cold (ice) baths
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Ditches



- Goat rides
- Ridiculous work assignments, e.g., cleaning floors with toothbrushes, etc.
- Harassing other fraternities or sororities
- Not being allowed to eat for any reason
- Memorization of stories, poems, or information not directly related to your chapter (particularly when profanity is included)
- Polling, dunking, or showering any member (pledged or initiated) because of an engagement or birthday
- Any special pre-initiation activities which do not contribute to the development of the member.

***Penalties for hazing are very severe. There is no room for error. If you think it's hazing, it probably is. Don't put yourself in a situation that could jeopardize the chapter or any member. This is a very serious matter.***

\*FIPG RISK MANAGEMENT MANUAL, pages 75-77