

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia



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PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA FRATERNITY POLICY ON HAZING

revised 2/2004

Article III, Section Four of the *General Regulations for Collegiate Chapters* strictly prohibits hazing:

Under no circumstances shall members indulge in any form of hazing, including but not limited to public or private harassment that in any way might be personally degrading, embarrassing, or destructive of life, limb or property, or that might bring discredit to the reputation of the Fraternity. Chapters that violate this provision shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Article XIV of the *National Constitution*. Individual members who violate this provision shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Article XV of the *National Constitution*.

For the purpose of clarification:

- The *National Constitution* defines four classes of membership: Probationary, Collegiate, Alumni, and Honorary. In this document, “member(s)” refers to ALL classes of membership.
- Consent is NOT a defense to hazing.
- The definition of hazing observed by the Fraternity shall include, but is not limited to, the following specific activities:
 1. Verbal or physical harassment in individual or group situations.
 2. Interrogation under stress or unusual circumstances, commonly referred to as “line-ups,” “rack - sessions,” or “grills.”
 3. Forced calisthenics or other unusual exercises.
 4. Forced consumption of alcohol or drugs.
 5. Prolonged deprivation of sleep and/or food.
 6. Activities which would force members to wear attire which is inappropriate or to conduct themselves in a degrading or otherwise humiliating manner.
 7. Activities which require members to violate the law or the code of conduct of the host institution.
 8. Transportation of members under unusual circumstances, or abandonment of members in isolated areas, which could place the safety of members at risk, including activities commonly referred to as “drops,” “kidnaps,” “walk-outs,” “roust-outs,” or “active pay-backs.”
 9. Activities which involve unusual or dangerous environments including forced transportation across or through bodies of water, fire, underground caverns, abandoned buildings, areas of dangerously rough or precipitous terrain, towers, rooftops, bridges, dams, or other similarly dangerous exposure to the elements.
 10. Paddling or striking members in any fashion.
 11. Forced consumption of any quantity of food, beverage (including water), or any substance or compound.
 12. Blindfolding, except as specified in the current version of the initiation ritual and only for the formal initiation ritual.

13. Activities which place members under emotional or psychological duress through misleading or misdirecting statements, sensory deprivation or abusive behavior, including but not limited to activities commonly referred to as “trust tests,” “trust walks,” or “goat rides,” and the practice of leading one or all probationary members to believe that they have failed to meet the necessary requirements for initiation in order to produce anxiety.
14. Activities which require unnecessary, trivial or demeaning personal servitude.
15. Interfering with any member’s ability to meet the academic requirements of the sheltering institution, such as placing excessive demands on his time or hindering his attendance at classes or rehearsals.
16. Forcing members to engage in inappropriate, degrading or unusual behavior of a sexual nature.
17. Informal initiation ceremonies which combine any or all of the above activities or activities of a similar nature, commonly referred to as “informals,” “hell night,” or “goat rides,” which detract from the impact of the formal initiation ceremony or in any way contradict established principles of fraternity conduct.
18. Requiring or requesting consent to be hazed.

Chapters that are accused of violations of this policy will be subject to the Fraternity’s Protocol for Hazing Allegations. Individuals who are accused of violations of this policy may be subject to discipline under the provisions of Article XV of the *National Constitution* and any member who consents to be hazed also may be subject to discipline under Article XV of the *National Constitution*.

Hazing has no place in Phi Mu Alpha, and is in direct contradiction to the most basic values of the fraternity. Each member and each chapter must take the steps necessary to eliminate hazing once and for all, in order to ensure that the benefits of Sinfonia will continue to be available to future generations.

We live in an extremely litigious society, and hazing is a criminal offense in most states. Taking part in hazing activities may result in criminal prosecution and often results in civil litigation that easily can bankrupt individuals, cause the premature demise of otherwise successful chapters, and ultimately threaten the survival of the fraternity itself. One senseless act can erase in seconds a tradition that has taken years to build, and no amount of money can replace a human life needlessly lost. Phi Mu Alpha expects each brother to hold the welfare of his fellow and future brothers as a personal responsibility of the highest order.