



# PHI GAMMA DELTA

## BUILDING COURAGEOUS LEADERS

## Phi Gamma Delta's Stance on Hazing

Contrary to society's stereotypes and the images often portrayed in media, hazing has never been an endorsed or encouraged method for a man to be "trained" or for him to "earn" his membership in a fraternity. In fact, hazing is directly contrary to the values and mission of Phi Gamma Delta, especially those expressed by our Founders in the Ritual. Unfortunately, hazing creeps into Greek organizations far too often.

We must be diligent to keep it out for numerous reasons:

**Separation & Animosity:** The goal of bringing new men into the Fraternity is to make it stronger and to perpetuate its existence for the benefit of those who come after us. Hazing weakens the chapter by building animosity and separation between new members and brothers that lasts well beyond the new member experience. For example, initiated brothers might tell new members that they need to learn unity, "bond" and become better new members by completing what amount to meaningless and unproductive tasks while they are harassed. In fact, they are being isolated from the initiated brothers in this adversarial relationship, and the new members – those who stick around – will resent the older brothers for years to come.

**False Unity:** Rather than isolating new members and trying to force "new member class unity," a Phi Gam chapter that is true to the mission, tradition and history of the Fraternity will bring the new members closer to the brotherhood by focusing on chapter unity, working side by side rather than as separate entities. It's teamwork as a collective group.

**Laziness:** Hazing is perpetuated by laziness in the chapter. By relying on the new members to handle all sorts of tasks and duties (particularly house cleaning), the brothers rest on their laurels, and only one quarter of the chapter's membership is truly being productive.

**Risk of Injury or Death:** Sadly, there are plenty of documented hazing activities have escalated into incidents of physical and/or mental harm, even death. And while the planners of the activity may have never intended for harm to result, situations of this nature tend to spiral out of control. A prime example is the tragic death of Scott Krueger, a Phi Gam new member at MIT. In 1997, on a night when Scott and his fellow new members were introduced to their big brothers, the new member class was given cases of beer and bottles of liquor and strongly encouraged to consume it a short amount of time. Scott ingested enough to pass out, and when he did, he was placed on a couch to "sleep it off." He vomited in his sleep, inhaled his vomit, and was found as he went into cardiac arrest. While doctors were able to save his body, he was brain dead, and his family made the heartbreaking decision to unplug his life support. The subsequent lawsuit was settled against the chapter officers, the new member educator and the International Fraternity for amounts more than several million dollars.

## Zero Tolerance

Phi Gamma Delta, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), our host institutions and

many states have explicit laws and regulations against hazing. The penalties for violations are swift and serious.

## **Important Fraternity Laws**

The following excerpt is from the Bylaws of the International Fraternity and must be upheld by all new members and brothers (both undergraduate and graduate). Read them carefully and be aware of their content. We are expected to always follow these laws, regardless of time or place. If you have any questions concerning these laws, or if you believe they are being violated, you are obligated (as is every brother) to report and confront the problem for the preservation and betterment of the Fraternity.

**“Section 25.28 Prohibition of Hazing.** No chapter, colony, new member or undergraduate/graduate brother shall require, allow or participate in any hazing ceremony or activity. Hazing is any action taken or situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks physical, emotional and/or mental harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate in order to join or retain membership. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, activities and/or requirements imposed on individuals or groups which:

1. Violate federal, state, provincial, or local laws, or college / university or Fraternity policies.
2. Knowingly or recklessly subjects a person(s) to unreasonable risk of physical, mental or emotional harm or humiliation.
3. Involve the forced or suggested consumption of alcohol or drugs, or any other substance in any non-customary manner.
4. Involve or threaten brutality of a physical or mental nature.
5. Are demeaning and/or humiliating.
6. Adversely affect a person’s well-being and/or academic performance.
7. Impose undue hardship or abridge any rights.

“For any infraction of this section, members may be subject to the sanctions described in Section 25.38, and chapters may be subject to the sanctions described in Sections 25.40-25.46.

“Any member found guilty of hazing which causes, or which could have caused physical, mental or emotional harm, or involves the forced or suggested consumption of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance shall be subject to sanctions described in Section 25.38(1)a-(1)d.

“Any chapter found guilty of hazing which causes, or which could have caused physical, mental or emotional harm, or involves the forced or suggested consumption of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance shall be subject to sanctions described in Sections 25.40-25.42.”