

IS IT HAZING?

Hazing is defined by the Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group (FIPG) as:

“Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities and other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy, or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.”

Most people are unclear as to what constitutes hazing. Verbal abuse and physical discomfort fall under most states' hazing definitions. It may be helpful to ask some questions to guide you in determining whether or not an activity would be considered hazing:

- Is there alcohol involved?
- Would an active member be willing to do what the new member is being asked to do?
- Would you be reluctant to share details about the activities with the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, school officials, or a parent?
- Would you object to outsiders viewing the activities?

Forty-two (42) states have anti-hazing legislation on record. To access a state-by-state listing of these laws, go to www.stophazing.org/laws.html.

Individual members and your chapter can be sued for damages alleged to be the result of hazing, even if the new members were told their participation was voluntary.

Hazing can have life-threatening consequences, and it has NO PLACE in Sigma Phi Epsilon. The “Statement on Chapter & Individual Responsibility” states that hazing is not a part of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity experience.

For information on anti-hazing speakers, go to the stop hazing web site for suggestions.