



FRATERNITY AND SORORITY

Student Involvement | Sonoma State University

ANTI-HAZING ACKNOWLEDEMENT

Upon accepting an invitation to join your chapter, the Sonoma State Fraternity and Sorority Life Anti-Hazing Statement must be read in full to all new members, and signed by each new member stating that they understand the policy and will uphold the policy at all times.

Sonoma State, the Greek Governing Councils, the Student Center, and the State of California all prohibit students from engaging in any activity that may be considered hazing. According to FIPG (Fraternal Information and Programming Group) Risk Management Manual, hazing is defined as:

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Hazing activities are defined 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; creation of 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 any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law."

In the State of California, hazing is illegal. The following is California's hazing law:

Matt's Law SEC. 3. Section 245.6

- A. This section shall be known and may be cited as "Matt's Law" in memory of Matthew William Carrington, who died on February 2, 2005 as a result of hazing.
- B. As used in this section "hazing" or "haze" is conduct which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to another person in the course of the other person's pre-initiation into, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization. The terms "hazing" or "haze" do not include customary athletic, fire department, police department, military, or quasi-military training, conditioning, or similar events or activities.
- C. Any person who hazes or conspires to participate in hazing is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5000), or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both fine and imprisonment.
- D. Any person who hazes or conspires to participate in hazing which results in death, great bodily injury, or great psychological injury is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the state prison.
- E. An organization is guilty of violating subdivisions (b) or (c) if the organization's agents, directors, trustees, managers, or officers authorized, requested, commanded, encouraged, participated in, ratified, or tolerated the hazing.
- F. The implied or expressed consent of the person or persons against whom the hazing was directed shall not be defense to any action brought under this section.
- G. This section does not apply to the person against whom the hazing was directed.
- H. This section shall not, in any manner, limit or exclude prosecution or punishment for any other crime or any civil remedy.
- I. The person against whom the hazing is directed may commence a civil action for injury or damages, including mental and physical pain and suffering that results from the hazing. The action may be brought against any participants in the hazing, or any organization, whose agents, directors, trustees, managers, or officers authorized, requested, commanded, encouraged, participated in, ratified, or tolerated the hazing. If the organization is a corporation, whether for profit or not, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.

I certify that I have read the above, and I understand the FIGP definition of hazing and the California State hazing law. I also agree not to haze and not to tolerate anyone else being hazed and will report any suspicious activity to the appropriate people.

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Chapter: _____

Semester: _____