



## Southern Methodist University Statement on Hazing

Hazing is a violation of Texas law and the Southern Methodist University *Student Code of Conduct*. Below is a notification sent twice yearly from the Office of the Dean of Students regarding hazing. Individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with a criminal offense as well as face disciplinary action from the University.

### **Hazing Defined**

The Texas anti-hazing statute is found in the Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, Subchapter F at §37.151 and defines hazing as: *any intentional, knowing or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act is:*

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity;
- Involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- Involves consumption of food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance, other than as described by Paragraph (E), that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health of the student;
- Is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal code; or involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume an alcoholic beverage, liquor, or drug in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code.

\*\*The fact that a person consented or acquiesced in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution for hazing under the law.

### **Reporting Hazing**

According to the law, a person can commit hazing by not only engaging in the activity, but also soliciting, encouraging, directing, aiding or attempting to aid in hazing; and by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly allowing hazing to occur. Witnessing hazing or having first-hand

knowledge that a hazing incident is planned or has occurred can also be considered hazing, as defined by law.

In an effort to encourage reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event in good faith and without malice to the Dean of Students or other appropriate University official, such as staff in the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards. A person may also be granted amnesty for any potential liability in university student conduct proceedings. Additionally, a doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing may make a good faith report of the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials and is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report. The penalty for the failure to report incidents of hazing is a fine of up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both. Penalties for other hazing offenses vary according to the severity of the injury which results and include fines from \$500 to \$10,000 and/or up to two years of jail time.

Students who have knowledge of hazing activity can report it to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards by clicking [here](#) or to the Southern Methodist University Police Department or both. Information about hazing may also be reported anonymously through the SMU Police Department's Silent Witness Program by calling 214-SMU-2TIP or online at <https://www.smu.edu/2tip>.

### **University Policy**

This law does not affect or in any way limit the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing. Hazing is a violation of section IV.B.4. of the *Southern Methodist University Student Code of Conduct* and is subject to potential proceedings in the Conduct Review Process.

### **Disciplined Organizations**

In accordance with Texas Law, universities have a duty to report to the campus community all organizations that have been disciplined for hazing, on or off campus, during the preceding three years.

- **Alpha Kappa Alpha**

**Date of Incident:** n/a

**Date Investigation was Initiated:** May 10, 2017

**General Description of Incident:** Alpha Kappa Alpha was allegedly exhibiting an environment consisting of abusive treatment of members and hazing of new members. Alpha Kappa Alpha was charged with violating the following policies: Irresponsible Conduct, Harassment, and Hazing.

**Resolution:** Alpha Kappa Alpha was found responsible for violating the following policies: Irresponsible Conduct, Harassment, and Hazing. Resolution includes an Organizational Accountability Agreement and Conduct Probation until Fall 2019.

**Date Investigation Concluded:** June 9, 2017

- **Beta Theta Pi**  
**Date of Incident(s):** February 26 and March 2, 2020  
**Date Investigation was Initiated:** March 10, 2020  
**General Description of Incident:** Beta Theta Pi was allegedly hazing new members of their organization by requiring members to send pornographic images to other members of the chapter. It was also reported that new members were required to engage in activities that can be considered servitude. Beta Theta Pi was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Alcohol, Irresponsible Conduct, and Harassment.  
**Resolution:** Beta Theta Pi was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing, Alcohol, Irresponsible Conduct, and Harassment. Resolution includes Conduct Probation through December 31, 2021 and the completion of an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements.  
**Date Investigation Concluded:** March 12, 2020
- **Beta Theta Pi**  
**Date of Incident(s):** Between January 24, 2021 and January 31, 2021  
**Date Investigation was Initiated:** February 1, 2021  
**General Description of Incident:** Beta Theta Pi was allegedly hazing new members of their organization by requiring new members to perform calisthenics, consume distasteful food, and perform acts of servitude. New members were also exposed to activities that adversely affected their physical health and safety. Beta Theta Pi was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Irresponsible Conduct, and Laws and University Policy.  
**Resolution:** Resolution includes an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements effective until May 15, 2023.  
**Date Investigation Concluded:** May 11, 2021
- **Delta Delta Delta**  
**Date of Incident:** February 26, 2021  
**Date Investigation was Initiated:** March 25, 2021  
**General Description of Incident:** Delta Delta Delta was allegedly hazing by subjecting new members to activities that caused shame or humiliation. Delta Delta Delta was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing, Alcohol, Irresponsible Conduct, Laws and University Policy, and Failure to Comply.  
**Resolution:** Delta Delta Delta was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing, Alcohol, Irresponsible Conduct, Laws and University Policy, and Failure to Comply. Resolution includes an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements.  
**Date Investigation Concluded:** May 4, 2021
- **Kappa Alpha Order**  
**Date of Incident:** n/a  
**Date Investigation was Initiated:** September 13, 2017  
**General Description of Incident:** Kappa Alpha Order was allegedly hazing new

members of their organization through paddling, servitude, forcing new members to consume alcohol, forcing new members to participate in calisthenics, forcing new members to consume various food items and liquids until vomiting was induced, forcing new members to wear clothing soiled with vomit, sleep deprivation, and "underground" membership. Kappa Alpha Order was charged with violating the following policies: Irresponsible Conduct, Laws & University Policy, Interference, Harassment, and Hazing.

**Resolution:** Kappa Alpha Order was found responsible for violating the following policies: Irresponsible Conduct, Laws & University Policy, Interference, Harassment, and Hazing. Resolution includes the suspension of the organization until Fall 2021.

**Date Investigation Concluded:** October 4, 2017

- **Kappa Alpha Theta**

**Date of Incident:** October, 28, 2020

**Date Investigation was Initiated:** November 11, 2020

**General Description of Incident:** Kappa Alpha Theta was allegedly hazing potential new members through forced consumption of alcohol at an off-campus location. Kappa Alpha Theta was charged with violating the following policies: Alcohol, Irresponsible Conduct, and Hazing.

**Resolution:** Kappa Alpha Theta was found responsible for violating the following policies: Irresponsible Conduct, Alcohol, and Hazing. Resolution includes the completion of an Organization Accountability Agreement, which outlines several educational programs and requirements.

**Date Investigation Concluded:** December 18, 2020

- **Pi Kappa Alpha**

**Date of Incident:** February 9, 2018

**Date Investigation was Initiated:** February 9, 2018

**General Description of Incident:** Pi Kappa Alpha was allegedly hazing new members of their organization through forced consumption of distasteful substances. Pi Kappa Alpha was charged with violating the following policy: Hazing.

**Resolution:** Pi Kappa Alpha was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing. Resolution includes the suspension of the organization until Fall 2022.

**Date Investigation Concluded:** March 26, 2018

- **Sigma Alpha Epsilon**

**Date of Incident:** n/a

**Date Investigation was Initiated:** May 2, 2017

**General Description of Incident:** Sigma Alpha Epsilon was allegedly hazing new members through servitude and possible physical abuse. Sigma Alpha Epsilon was charged with violating the following policies: Alcohol and Hazing.

**Resolution:** Sigma Alpha Epsilon was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing. Resolution includes an Alternative Resolution Agreement and Deferred Suspension through May 31, 2020.

**Date Investigation Concluded:** May 5, 2017

- **Sigma Nu (Pending)**  
**Date of Incident:** September 28, 2021  
**Date Investigation was Initiated:** November 19, 2021  
**General Description of Incident:** Sigma Nu was allegedly hazing new members by forcing new members to participate in calisthenics and imposing required methods of communication and attire. Sigma Nu was charged with violating the following policies: Hazing and Irresponsible Conduct.  
**Resolution:** Sigma Nu was found responsible for violating the following policies: Hazing and Irresponsible Conduct. Resolution includes Deferred Suspension through December 31, 2022 and educational programs and requirements.  
**Date Investigation Concluded:** December 3, 2021

### **Reporting Hazing on Campus**

- To report a hazing incident on campus, please use the [Hazing Reporting Form](#). This form notifies the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards that a hazing incident has occurred. If you are more comfortable speaking to someone about the incident, please call the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards at 214-768-4563.
- If you are experiencing an emergency, please contact the SMU Police Department immediately at 214-768-3333.

### **Additional Resources**

For a list of additional resources, please see below:

- **Office of the Dean of Students**  
Hughes-Trigg Student Center, Suite 205
- **Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards**  
Hughes-Trigg Student Center, Suite 205
- **Southern Methodist University Student Code of Conduct:**  
<https://smu.edu/StudentAffairs/OfficeoftheDeanofStudents/StudentHandbook>
- **Hazing Prevention Website**  
<https://hazingprevention.org/>