

USD Hazing Resources

In addition to the policy outlined in *The University Relationship and Guidelines for General Fraternities and Sororities*, this resource can assist chapters in realizing the potential implications of hazing. Below is information on the University of San Diego's policy, as well as a copy of the California Hazing Law, Matt's Law.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The University of San Diego has a zero-tolerance policy in regards to hazing. Hazing, in any form, is not congruent with our calling to treat each person with dignity and respect. Studies have also shown that hazing practices affect both parties and impacts their personal wellbeing and academic success.

Below are several resources on campus if you feel that you or someone you know is experiencing any harm that may be a result of hazing.

1. [Anonymous Reporting](#) form through the [Department of Public Safety](#).
2. [Compliance Form](#) through the University.
3. The National Hazing Hotline provides an anonymous telephone line for anyone to report a suspected or recent hazing incident to one number 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293) that accepts call 24 hours a day. To report known or suspected hazing in writing to the Hazing Hotline [click here](#). Please clearly identify the organization and university that you are reporting.

In addition, the university has several confidential resources through the wellness and ministry area: please refer to this [site](#) for a list of confidential resources.

Please know that staff members are available to talk through your experience as well. Staff contact information can be found [here](#).

CALIFORNIA HAZING LAW

Matt's Law SEC. 3. Section 245.6

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, harm to another person in the course of the other person's preinitiation 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), not 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 prisons.
- (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 is 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 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.

WHAT THIS MEANS

If you are found guilty of hazing you could pay up to \$5000 and serve up to one year in a county jail. This will also result in a misdemeanor on your record. A misdemeanor results in the loss of many privileges such as professional licenses, public offices and public employment.

If you are found guilty of hazing the resulted in death or serious bodily injury you are guilty of a felony and will serve time in a state prison. Felonies are deemed the most serious class of offenses in the United States and results in the loss of many civil rights. Being found of a felony may result in ineligibility to run for or hold a public office, loss of right to vote, loss of right to serve on a jury, loss of right to practice law, ineligibility to receive financial aid, exclusion from certain lines of work, prohibition from obtaining certain licenses, and exclusion from purchase and possession of firearms and ammunition.

A person willingly accepting hazing is not a defense for the act. You can still be found guilty of hazing even if the person willingly participated.

If you are an officer, you can be found guilty of hazing even if you did not participate, but only knew about the hazing yet failed to act. In addition, if you encouraged or allowed the hazing you can also be found guilty and be punished.

The person who was hazed and/or their family can sue individuals and the entire organization for physical and emotional distress.

The sanctions above are in addition to any sanctions imposed by the University.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Most importantly, do not participate, encourage or allow any activity that could potentially be hazing!

If you hear of any activities that could potentially be hazing, notify appropriate individuals right away (chapter advisors, university officials) and attempt to stop the activity from occurring.

Chapters should be educated on California State and University of San Diego policies regarding hazing and what constitutes hazing.

If unsure whether an event is hazing consult an advisor or the Director of Student Organizations and Greek Life.

Also, some questions to consider are:

- ◆ Does the activity involve mental distress such as humiliation or intimidations?
- ◆ Does it involve physical abuse (e.g. sleep deprivation)?
- ◆ Is there a significant risk of injury or a question of safety?
- ◆ Would you have any reservations describing the activity to your parents, national organization or a university official?
- ◆ Is alcohol involved?
- ◆ Would you be worried if the activity was shown on the evening news?

If the answer to any of the above questions is “Yes”, the activity is probably hazing.