YOU CAN HELP PREVENT HAZING

Hazing is a real problem that can cause long-lasting effects both physically and psychologically – to the person being hazed, the person hazing, and the community at large.

*Hazing is everyone’s problem.*
That’s why it’s also everyone’s responsibility.

At HazingPrevention.Org™, our mission is to empower people – everyone – to prevent hazing. How can you be empowered?

IF YOU WITNESS A HAZING INCIDENT OR SOMEONE IS IN DANGER CALL 911

If you or someone else is in immediate danger please immediately dial 911.

If you want to report a hazing incident or a suspected incident that is not immediately putting someone in danger, contact your school security office, your organization’s headquarters, club or team leader and/or other state or local designated reporting authority. Many schools and organizations require that you report what you witness!

LEARN MORE ABOUT HAZING


*HazingPrevention.Org*

P.O. Box 1189
LaGrange, GA 30241
info@hazingprevention.org
(706) 298-0292

Who to contact locally regarding hazing:
LEARN WHAT HAZING IS

HAZING is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.

Definitions of hazing can sometimes vary but all have common factors:

• Activities meant to ‘earn’ a place within an organization or team that seem inconsistent with someone’s character or values
• Activities that are embarrassing or mentally/physically abusive
• Forced or coerced abuse of alcohol, drugs, foods
• Personal servitude or meaningless tasks
• Willingness to participate does not absolve responsibility for either party

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH LOCAL POLICIES AND LAWS

Every school, college or university, national organization, athletic department and workplace has an anti-hazing policy and most, a procedure for reporting violations of that policy. Make sure you know what those policies are and be prepared to use the reporting process if necessary.

Nearly every state in the U.S. has laws against hazing as well, which means it’s a misdemeanor or felony that should be reported to law enforcement.

EXAMPLES OF HAZING

• Forced activities for new recruits to ‘prove’ their worth to join
• Forced or required consumption of alcohol
• Requirement to eat spicy foods, other substances
• Requirement to endure hardships such as staying awake, menial tasks, physical labor, running while blindfolded, etc.
• Humiliation of new or potential members
• Isolation of new or potential members
• Beatings, paddling, or other physical acts against new or potential members
• Requirements for new or potential members to do things established members are not required to do

IS THIS HAZING?

If you’re not sure whether or not something happening to you or to someone else is hazing, ask yourself:

• Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my parents were watching?
• Would we get in trouble if a school/college administrator walked by and saw us?
• Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?
• Am I doing anything illegal?
• Does participation in this activity violate my values or those of this organization?
• Is this causing emotional or physical distress or stress to myself or to others?

HAZING HAS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON EVERYONE INVOLVED

IMPACT ON PERSON BEING HAZED

• Physical, emotional, and/or mental instability
• Sleep deprivation
• Loss of sense of control and empowerment
• Decline in grades and coursework
• Relationships with friends, significant others, and family suffer
• Post-traumatic stress syndrome
• Loss of respect for and interest in being part of the organization
• Erosion of trust within the group members

IMPACT ON THOSE WHO HAZE

Those who are accused of engaging in the hazing behaviors may face suspension or expulsion, and legal action, which may include misdemeanor or felony charges and/or jail time.

• Damage to one’s personal reputation
• Warped sense of leadership
• Feelings of shame and guilt

IMPACT ON THE ORGANIZATION/TEAM

• Loss of reputation within the community, local area and nationally
• Loss of recognition for the organization, team or club and/or other privileges revoked
• Civil damages may be levied