

# Parent Resources

## Hazing



**ΑΕΠ**

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP  
for the JEWISH COMMUNITY

[aepi.org](http://aepi.org)

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# HAZING

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The term “hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against any individual or group of individuals, for the purpose of recruiting, joining, educating new members, initiating, admitting, affiliating, or retaining membership in an organization that causes an individual or group of individuals to do any of the following, regardless of a person’s willingness to participate:

- Be coerced to violate federal, state, provincial, local law, or Alpha Epsilon Pi policy
- Be coerced to consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug, or other substance in any non-customary manner which subjects the individual or group of individuals to a substantial risk of emotional or physical harm, including but not limited to sickness, vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness
- Endure brutality of a physical nature, including but not limited to whipping, beating, paddling, branding, dangerous physical activity, or exposure to elements or endure threats of such conduct that results in mental or physical harm
- Endure brutality of a mental nature, including but not limited to activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or endure threats of such conduct that results in mental or physical harm
- Endure any other activity that adversely affects the health and safety of an individual, including but not limited to the disruption of academic performance or class attendance, required designated driving programs, line ups, calisthenics, or personal, physical, or financial servitude.

Alpha Epsilon Pi takes a firm stance against hazing. Each and every one of our members agrees to abide by our Health and Safety Policy, which contains strong verbiage to ensure that members understand what it is and know that it is a violation of our policy. Alpha Epsilon Pi also provides substantial anti-hazing education to our members in an effort to eradicate hazing both within and beyond our organization. It is important that parents also talk about hazing with your students and ask your student to be transparent when it comes to activities that are required of them.

Unfortunately, hazing still exists within many high school and college groups, including youth groups, bands, sports teams, clubs, and fraternities. It is often glorified in

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movies and television shows and, despite public cases and increasingly stringent laws, hazing holds an allure for some young adults. Parents can play a key role in helping their student understand that any organization participating in hazing is doing so illegally and against the policies of the college/university, the fraternal organization, and local and state laws. Most importantly, they are doing something that is wrong.

We encourage you to educate your son about what hazing is and the associated dangers. Hazing is a practice that often operates in secrecy, but the fraternal community remains committed to bringing these behaviors to light and protecting its members and pledges from encountering risky and potentially tragic situations.

### **DID YOU EVER EXPERIENCE HAZING?**

We find that some students come to campus looking for similar experiences to those that parents spoke about at home. Sadly, when parents joke or recount instances of “mild hazing” from their college days it can lead to the desire to have similar experiences. There is no guarantee that hazing will stop where it stopped for you. When groups haze their members, the hazing tends to get worse and worse each year. Some of the experiences that you may have found silly, harmless, or fun can escalate into serious and life-threatening situations. For this reason there is no amount of hazing that is ok.

Below are some tips for starting the conversation about hazing:

1. Discuss hazing with your student before they leave for college.
2. Advise your college student not to allow themselves to be hazed and, on the flip side, not to participate in or allow the hazing of others.
3. Ask questions in a calm, methodical, and rational manner. For example, ask your son if there are times when he felt uncomfortable during the new member process.
4. Avoid negative tactics such as preaching, blaming, or making hypothetical threats. These can be unproductive and do not allow parents to fully explain the risks of hazing.
5. Talk openly about experiences that you have had with hazing.
6. Find opportunities to challenge hazing practices. For example, discuss whether it really creates unity among members, how it makes you a better person, or if it aligns with the express purpose of the organization they have joined.
7. Encourage your son to be proactive and report any hazing incidents to the chapter leadership and to Fraternity staff. Similarly, if you suspect that your student may be

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subject to or engaged in any form of hazing, please take the initiative to report it. link to AEPi to report concerns/hazing.

For more information, check out our partner's [website](#) or <https://fraternallaw.com/help-us-stop-hazing>.

## **HAVE A CONCERN? CONTACT US.**

As we aim to provide our members with a safe and positive fraternal experience, we understand that there are cultures and histories at many college campuses that working against us but Alpha Epsilon Pi takes great pride in our forward-thinking mentality within the world of fraternal organizations. If you ever have any concerns that affect the health and safety of our members, we encourage you to [contact us](#).