

Risk Management Policies of Theta Tau

Whereas, The purpose of Theta Tau is to develop and maintain a high standard of professional interest among its members and to unite them in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship, and Whereas realizing that abuse of controlled substances and/or alcohol can erode these two cornerstones on which the Fraternity was founded, and Whereas it is the obligation of the Fraternity to ensure the social and physical well-being of its members and to limit the liability of our members, chapters and the national Fraternity. Therefore, Be it resolved that the Theta Tau 2002 National Convention adopts the following Risk Management policies pursuant to the Articles and Bylaws of the National Constitution.

Policy on Controlled Substances

1. The possession or use of controlled substances at any Fraternity activity shall be in compliance with all federal, state, local and university regulations.
2. Chapter officers are obliged to take disciplinary measures, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Bylaws, when warranted, on any individual who negatively affects the chapter or Fraternity through misuse of controlled substances.
3. Each chapter is encouraged to regularly participate in an alcohol and drug awareness program at the chapter's University to educate its members on the personal consequences of drug abuse as well as how such use affects each individual chapter and the national Fraternity.

Policy on Abusive Behavior

The Fraternity will not tolerate or condone any form of abusive behavior on the part of its members or pledges (whether physical, mental, verbal, sexual or emotional) in violation of any federal, state, local and university regulation. This is to include any actions directed toward members, nonmembers, friends, or guests.

Policy on Hazing

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 located 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: Forced use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; 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 laws.

Policy on High-Risk Events

Theta Tau cannot condone and discourages participation in high-risk events. Examples of high-risk events include, but are not limited to: Bungee jumping, parachuting, sporting events such as boxing, etc. Individuals choosing to take part in these sorts of events do so at their own risk and with the full understanding of the inherent risks associated with them.

Policy on Transportation

Theta Tau chapters are encouraged to establish a transportation policy for chapter events which are not held at or within walking distance from the chapter facility. It is strongly recommended that the policy include the use of a form of mass transportation, such as charter buses, to transport members for such events, and particularly for events where alcohol may be consumed. When transportation is not arranged, alternative procedures, such as designated (in advance of the event) drivers, should be used.

Policy on Property Management

The chapter facility, along with its furnishings and landscape, are encouraged to provide for each member an environment for study, clean and safe living conditions, and recreation. Property should be maintained in a manner, which makes it inviting and attractive to parents, rushees, and alumni. A sound program focused on proper maintenance of the property, along with due regard for university, health, or fire department regulations, where applicable, shall be followed in each chapter. Rents and fees collected should be sufficient to meet not only annual expenses, but also sufficient to allow for savings toward significant renovations and/or new facilities.

Policy on Gun Safety

Individuals choosing to exercise their right to bear arms should do so only after undergoing appropriate courses on gun safety and use sponsored and conducted by a reputable organization. The Fraternity generally believes that the chapter house is no place for a firearm and it should instead be stored safely elsewhere by the owner (such as a parent's home or a firing range). To prevent it from misuse or accidental use by its owner, another member, a guest, or an intruder, firearms kept on chapter premises shall be stored unloaded, in a locked storage area accessible only to the owner(s) of said firearms. Ammunition shall be stored in a separate locked area from the firearm. No loaded firearm shall be on Chapter premises. Notwithstanding the manner in which such a firearm is maintained or stored by its owner, firearms shall not be displayed, demonstrated, or cleaned on chapter premises or as part of any chapter activity. [over]