

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

**University of North Florida**  
**Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life**  
**Pledge/New Member Education Guidance**

The new member process:

- What is your time frame for new member education? (when are you starting, initiating, major dates)
  
- What do you want to accomplish with your new member education program?
  
- How will you respond to members treating new members/pledges inappropriately?
  
- How will you respond to issues that new members/pledges may have with the process?

Hazing:

- Florida state law:  
“Hazing” means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes, including, but not limited to, the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

“Hazing” includes, but is not limited to:

- Pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law;
  
- any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student;
  
- Any activity that which would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that which could result in extreme embarrassment;
  
- Other forced activity that which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

### **In the State of Florida, Hazing is a Criminal Offense**

A person commits hazing, a third degree felony, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of such other person.

A person commits hazing, a first degree misdemeanor, when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to such other person.

It is not a defense to a charge of hazing that:

- The consent of the victim had been obtained;
  - The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization; or
  - The conduct or activity that resulted in death or injury of the person was not done as a condition of membership to an organization.
- In the event of a reported hazing incident, UPD and/or University Conduct will investigate.
    - Your new members may be called to talk about their experiences.
      - You may not be notified prior to this; however, you will be notified after of any concerns that have arisen as a result of the conversation.
    - OFSL may notify your headquarters of the reported incident so they may conduct their own investigation.

Your responsibility as new member educator:

As new member educator, I recognize and acknowledge the following:

- That I understand what hazing is, why it is harmful, and where I can go if I have any questions. \_\_\_\_
- That I am primarily responsible for prevention of hazing and creation of a healthy new member experience. \_\_\_\_
- That Florida state law and the University of North Florida Student Conduct Code both prohibit hazing at any point during the new member process or member experience. \_\_\_\_
- That new members joining my organization may have undisclosed mental, physical, emotional, or psychological issues that may surface and cause harm to that individual as a result of hazing. \_\_\_\_
- That I have a method in place for new members to report issues with their new member process. \_\_\_\_

On my honor, I pledge to offer a safe, positive new member process and to protect the mental, physical, emotional, and psychological health of all new members.

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Member Educator                      Date                      OFSL Representative                      Date