

Texas Christian University is in agreement with all aspects of the State of Texas' Hazing Law and is set forth in Section 3.2.2. of the TCU Code of Student Conduct. TCU recognizes that membership in co-curricular student organizations can significantly enhance the learning and growth experiences of university students. In accordance with state and federal laws, the university adamantly prohibits any form of hazing. All new member orientation and initiation activities are expected to be unquestionable in their purpose and intention. Further, these activities should support the attainment of all purposes stated in the respective student organization constitutions.

TCU Code of Student Conduct Section 3.2.2 Hazing

Intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or in conjunction with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, developing group cohesion, training, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, students at Texas Christian University. A person commits an offense if he/she engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another engaging in hazing; intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits hazing to occur; has first-hand knowledge of planning of a specific hazing event or has first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing event has occurred and fails to report that knowledge in writing to appropriate university officials.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. physical brutality such as paddling, whipping, beating, striking, branding, electrical shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activities;
- b. physical activities that put students at risk such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small or darkened space, and calisthenics;
- c. forced consumption of a substance such as food, liquid, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or other substances that may affect the student's mental or physical health;
- d. activities that intimidate or threaten a student with ostracism;
- e. activities that subject a student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation;
- f. activities that affect the mental health or dignity of the student including, but not limited to, compelling a student to: perform acts of personal servitude, participate in treasure hunts, road trips, scavenger hunts;
- g. activities that jeopardize students' ability to fulfill academic requirements by requiring such things as late work sessions, deprive students of ample study time, or prevent class or study session attendance;
- h. activities that induce, cause, or require a student to perform an act violating the Texas Penal Code or the Code of Student Conduct.

Texas State Law

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. The term includes:

- (A) any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
- (B) any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- (C) any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- (D) any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision; and
- (E) any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.152. PERSONAL HAZING OFFENSE.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person:
 - (1) engages in hazing;
 - (2) solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
 - (3) recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
 - (4) has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution.
- (b) The offense of failing to report is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) Any other offense under this section that does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (d) Any other offense under this section that causes serious bodily injury to another is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (e) Any other offense under this section that causes the death of another is a state jail felony.
- (f) Except if an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on a person placed on community supervision under Section 11, Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.153. ORGANIZATION HAZING OFFENSE.

- (a) An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.
- (b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by:
 - (1) a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000; or
 - (2) if the court finds that the offense caused personal injury, property damage, or other loss, a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount lost or expenses incurred because of the injury, damage, or loss.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 37.154. CONSENT NOT A DEFENSE.

It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense under this subchapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

