



New Member Bill of Rights

Office of Student Activities
Belmont Abbey College
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Received: _____

Bill of Rights

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of pledge/new member education and will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your Greek organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of inter/national fraternity and sorority regulations, Belmont Abbey College Greek Council, and/or College policies. These activities constitute "hazing."

Listed below is a *New Member Bill of Rights* that specifically outlines activities which fraternity or sorority members **CANNOT** require of you. **If they do so, severe action will be taken by the College against any student or organization found to have engaged in these prohibited activities, up to and including indefinite revocation of charter for the organization and suspension or dismissal for the students involved.**

Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated.

Examples of prohibited activities:

Alcohol Use

1. *The use of alcohol during any type of new member function or activity, excluding religious services.*
2. *Creating conditions that require, force, or expect consumption of alcoholic beverages in any amount.*

Creating Conditions of Servitude or Class Distinction

1. *Any activity that is required or expected of pledge/new members/associates that is not required of active members at the same time (cleaning, washing cars, etc.)*
2. *Expecting that personal errands be run by new members for the active members.*
3. *Collecting signatures at any time for any reason.*
4. *New members being expected to do anything active members say.*
5. *Any non-ritual activity or situation that requires a distinction between new member class and active members.*
 1. *Examples may include sports or game teams of new members versus active members.*
6. *Participating in non-approved treasure or scavenger hunts. Unapproved road trips. Kidnappings of new members.*
7. *Active members messing up the room of a new member to clean.*
8. *Requiring new members to use non-standard cleaning items and tools (scrubbing floors with toothbrush, etc.)*
9. *Unapproved "war" or paint-ball games.*

Unreasonable/Inappropriate Expectations

1. *Expecting new members to carry or wear certain items on their person at all times. Penalties for being "caught" without such items.*
2. *New members not being allowed to practice personal hygiene on a daily basis.*
3. *New members being required to wear excessive make-up or none at all or in any amount that is not normally used by the new member.*
4. *New members expected to use only certain doors, elevators, etc. to enter a building.*
5. *Requiring periods of silence or insinuating new members must not "break silence" about any non-ritual activity.*
6. *Required or expected branding or tattooing.*
7. *Active members penalizing, intimidating, or threatening new member if he/she fails to comply with any unapproved activity. Creating an intimidating environment where new members feel they can't refuse to perform an activity.*

Physical or Psychological Shocks

1. *Non-approved exercise or calisthenics programs.*

2. *Required or expected eating of any type of food or drinking of any beverage or deprivation of food or beverage. Dropping foods (eggs, grapes, etc) in the mouths of new members. Throwing any food or beverage item on a new member.*
3. *Use of toxic and non-toxic materials to paint or mark on new member's persons.*
4. *Creation of excessive fatigue. Late night or early morning sessions which interfere with scholastic activities or normal sleep patterns or new members awakened time and again during the night. New members dragged onto the floor when awakened.*
5. *Lengthy work sessions.*
6. *Any physical abuse such as paddling, pushing, shoving, or tackling new members.*
7. *Bracing and finger-snapping in new members' ears.*
8. *Any unsafe vehicular transportation of new members to or from an activity, including riding in areas not designed for normal passenger use (trunk or hood of car, cargo area of a truck, van, pick-up truck, etc.)*
9. *Requiring new members to run laps or perform other physical activities while carrying items on their person (e.g. putting eggs in their mouths).*

Morally Degrading or Humiliating Activities

1. *Having new members' rite a list of their sins or faults for personal use or believing they must share them with chapter members.*
2. *New members required to mark or disclose areas on their person that "need improvement," "weight loss," etc.*
3. *Initiates conducting written or verbal progress reports on new members that result in harassment, embarrassment, or ridicule.*
4. *New members being booed, hissed or demeaned when they make a mistake in recitation in front of the chapter.*
5. *Yelling or screaming at the new members.*
6. *Calling the new members "scum" or similar derogatory names.*
7. *Derogatory sexual remarks or actions toward other new members or members.*

Recitation of Learned Material/Line-Ups

1. *Demanding recitation of learned/memorized material on the spot.*
2. *Required reciting of material (Greek alphabet, chapter history, or new member or member names, hometowns, etc.) while doing another activity such as running stairs, doing pushups, or holding lighted matches before the fire burns the fingers. Requiring recitation of material within a time limit.*
3. *Full or partial line-up of new members for non-ritual/ceremony purposes.*

Inappropriate Clothing and Public Displays

1. *Wearing apparel publicly which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste.*
2. *New members being required to wear the same type of clothing on the same day to identify or unify the new member class.*
3. *New members being required to wear the same clothing for more than one day or unclean clothing at the time.*
4. *Total nudity at any time.*
5. *Engaging in public stunts and jokes. Assigning "pranks" such as stealing, painting objects, egging houses, or harassing another organization. Assigning "pranks" such as having underwear signed by unknown persons in the French Quarter.*
6. *Yelling, screaming, or chanting of the fraternity name, song, new member class names etc.*

Inappropriate Ritual/Initiation Ceremony Behavior

1. *Withholding the date of the initiation ceremony.*
2. *Threatening the new member by indicating that he/she is not up to standards, has failed the initiation exam, or may not be initiated into the chapter/organization. New member initiation activities during hours prohibited from hosting new member activities.*
3. *New members not permitted adequate time for study or less than six hours of continuous sleep each night during pre-initiation or initiation periods.*
4. *Being placed in a physical environment which is uncomfortable (temperature, noise, too small) during preinitiation activities or between portions of the ritual.*
5. *Requiring new members to live and sleep in the same location or in a residence other than their own.*
6. *Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played during pre-initiation week and/or points of the ritual.*

THIS LIST IS IN NO WAY INCLUSIVE.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING BELIEVED HAZING OR VIOLATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS' RIGHTS OR OTHER QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES OR THE DEAN OF RESIDENCIAL LIFE.

EACH NEW MEMBER MUST SIGN *THE NEW MEMBER BILL OF RIGHTS CONFIRMATION FORM* TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF OUR ZERO TOLERANCE FOR HAZING.

The following new members of _____ chapter of Belmont Abbey College Greek Life have received a copy of the Belmont Abbey College New Member Bill of Rights and were given ample time to review and comprehend the document.

_____ Date

_____ Chapter President

_____ New Member Educator

_____ Faculty/Staff Moderator

New Member's Name <i>(Please, Use Full Legal Name)</i>	People Code ID	Signature
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Total Number of New Members:		