



# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

## **Sigma Chi Fraternity Position on Alcohol**

Developed by the 1997-99 Executive Committee

### **Background**

The dangers of alcohol abuse have been well known for many years and have manifested themselves in tragic ways in the Greek letter world. This has resulted not only in bad publicity for fraternities but in senseless deaths and permanent disabilities for individuals. Alcohol, directly and indirectly, has ruined many lives. It is the obligation of all Sigma Chis to recognize and to deal effectively with the real and potential problems caused when alcohol use becomes alcohol abuse.

The General Fraternity recognizes that a number of chapters have benefited from an alcohol-free living environment and pledges its support and educational resources to a chapter, house corporation or university which chooses to implement such an environment.

Sigma Chi is a value-based organization with a desire to educate its members and prospective members in the legal, responsible use of, or abstinence from alcohol as well as in sound risk management policies. Prohibition, historically, has not been effective and the Fraternity has no intention of mandating alcohol-free living. However, the Executive Committee will continue to have the right to impose alcohol-free housing stipulations as a disciplinary measure for chapters which flagrantly or repeatedly misuse alcohol.

### **The Issue**

The conflict between each brother's voluntary commitment to live according to the values and ideals of Sigma Chi versus his behavioral patterns relating to the misuse of alcohol.

### **Position Statement**

The misuse of alcohol is conduct unbecoming a Sigma Chi. Consequently, the Sigma Chi Fraternity resolves to eliminate the misuse of alcohol by our membership, particularly among our undergraduate and prospective members.

### **Educational Programs**

Programs to assist chapters with alcohol education can include:

- Stone Mentor Program
- Balfour Fellow Program
- Leadership Consultant Alcohol Intervention Measures Program
- Province Conferences (RMF Case Studies)
- Balfour Leadership Training Workshops
- Individual chapter programs
- Host institution programs
- Interfraternal and other programs as applicable

### **Policies**

- Sigma Chi Alcohol Policy
- Risk Management Foundation Alcohol Policy
- Host College/University Alcohol Policies
- Chapter By-Laws

#### **International Headquarters**

1714 Hinman Avenue, Post Office Box 469 Evanston, Illinois 60204 Telephone: 847 869 3655 Fax: 847 869 4906 [www.sigmachicago.org](http://www.sigmachicago.org)



# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

## **Accountability Mechanisms**

Accountability is the most difficult, yet essential, aspect of true Brotherhood. If we truly trust our Brothers, then we are obligated to be open and honest with one another. Consequently, we may be the only ones who are able to hold one another accountable in a positive, Brotherly manner with pure motives to help one another improve.

Accountability must begin with “The Man in the Glass”. We must hold ourselves first, then each other, accountable to live by the ideals and values to which we each voluntarily committed. This includes holding ourselves and each other accountable if we misuse alcohol.

The primary structured accountability mechanism must be the individual Chapter Judicial Board. Remembering that the actions of any one Brother reflect on all of us and that just one incident may affect the future of the chapter, the Chapter Judicial Board must act promptly, yet fairly, when Brothers misuse alcohol. The courses of action that should be considered alone or in combination include:

- Mandating counseling if there has been a pattern of misuse (most colleges/universities offer such services to their students at no additional charge);
- Suspending social and/or other chapter privileges for a minimum of one semester (or its equivalent) along with financial remuneration for any damage;
- Suspending from membership for less than one year (must be approved by Executive Committee. See ECR 7.01-3);
- Requesting a trial board to consider conduct expulsion (see Statute 7.01 and ECR 7.01-1).

The second structured accountability mechanism must be local alumni, specifically the Chapter Advisor and his Advisory Committee from an operations perspective, and the members of the House Corporation as the Chapter’s landlord or property manager. Possible courses of action could include:

- Counseling (as noted for Chapter Judicial Board);
- Soliciting parental/guardian intervention and support;
- Evicting from the Chapter House those deemed to be undesirable tenants;
- Requesting a trial board to consider conduct expulsion (requires five alumni signatures; see statute 7.01 and ECR 7.01-1).
- Building or remodeling houses without bars or barrooms (prevention)

Both the individual Chapter Judicial Board and the local alumni should utilize the Grand Praetor, the General Fraternity’s official representative in the province, as a resource for these deliberations and proceedings.

The third structured accountability mechanism is the General Fraternity, particularly the Grand Consul and/or the Executive Committee (or its duly designated subcommittees). Courses of action could include:

- Requiring the Chapter to sponsor appropriate alcohol-related programming for the chapter, Greek system and/or the campus.
- Approving trial boards and subsequent review of trial board’s recommendations;
- Removal of Chapter officers;
- Suspending a Chapter’s operations for up to 45 days to allow for further investigation;
- Taking disciplinary action ranging from the issuance of Formal Warning to the indefinite suspension of a Chapter’s charter (see Statue 7.03);

### **International Headquarters**

**1714 Hinman Avenue, Post Office Box 469 Evanston, Illinois 60204 Telephone: 847 869 3655 Fax: 847 869 4906 [www.sigmachicago.org](http://www.sigmachicago.org)**



# **SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY**

To minimize the need for these accountability mechanisms we should:

- Recruit men who meet our membership criteria as outlined in the Jordan Standard;
- Educate them through our Preparation for Brotherhood and Post-Initiation Training Programs;
- Utilize the educational programs as previously noted.

But, when these mechanisms are needed—and they will be—we must hold ourselves and each other accountable for the misuse of alcohol, which is conduct unbecoming a Sigma Chi.

**International Headquarters**

**1714 Hinman Avenue, Post Office Box 469 Evanston, Illinois 60204 Telephone: 847 869 3655 Fax: 847 869 4906 [www.sigmachicago.org](http://www.sigmachicago.org)**