

THE HAZING OF SADIE (A Pseudonym)

Sadie, age 19, was hazed by members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Sorority members failed to notice on her medical form, found inside her intake packet, that she suffered from Asthma attacks, particularly when overstressed. Sadie was forced, along with the other seven aspirants, to go through excessive exercises. After running up and down the steps of the football stadium, around 11:00 p.m. that night, Sadie had a horrible Asthma attack and became extremely weak. Sadie's nebulizer was in her handbag. The handbag was still in the car of the Soror who drove Sadie and three of the Aspirants to the stadium. Out of fear, another aspirant got Sadie to the hospital. However, the Sorority members and the remaining Aspirants chose not to disclose the incident and kept silent. It was a close call and Sadie was kept hospitalized for three days. Her parents were called and drove several hours to get to where Sadie was enrolled in school. Both of Sadie's parents are members of historic black Greek-letter organizations and demanded an investigation of Sadie's intake process. It was Sadie's parents who made the report to the Chapter Basileus of the sponsoring graduate chapter.

The incident was reported through the Sorority's disciplinary protocols (see Section 5 of the 14th Edition of the National Handbook). The intake process was "shut down" immediately and an investigation ensued. The chapter has been placed on suspension and three members are facing possible expulsion. This was a close call with Sadie and if the aspirant had not gotten Sadie to the hospital, the situation would have netted different results.

Discussion (Separate into smaller groups and discuss for 15 minutes. Come back into the larger group and share your discussions)

When a parent nearly loses a child, or have a child badly hurt, they look at the evening/incidences and wonder who was to blame. Lawyers are hired and, essentially, they start at the end of the evening and work towards the beginning. As a participant in this discussion, **why did this happen? What was the reason for it and knowing it is against the Sorority's anti- hazing policies?** Ultimately, **what would have happened if she did not get immediate medical attention and would the silence have continued? So, work backwards and tell me who is to blame and were the consequences severe enough for this situation? What would you have done?**

Final Thought

How do we prevent Sadie's situation? The goal is prevention and are you able to tell how to prevent by filling in the blanks and provide specific procedures in line with the Sorority's Anti-Hazing Policies, Risk Management Policy and Disciplinary Conduct? Remember, **we must all STAND UP AGAINST HAZING!!**

STAND UP AGAINST HAZING AND REPORT ABUSES OF THE SORORITY'S POLICIES & STATE STATUTES SURROUNDING HAZING!!! SOMEONE'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT!!!