

KING'S COLLEGE ANTI-HAZING, PLEDGING, AND RELATED BEHAVIORS POLICY (Effective June 23, 2025)

As a College in the Catholic tradition, King's encourages students to form bonds of loyalty, respect and affinity with all members of the campus community. Special attention is given to encouraging social connections and belonging to those with whom one lives and learns. Avenues for service to the College and local communities, as well as for social interaction, are provided through many College-recognized organizations and events. With this in mind, the College does not recognize social fraternities or sororities, nor does it encourage membership in them.

The College supports and adheres to federal and Commonwealth law regarding hazing, including the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (2024) and the Commonwealth's Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law (2018).

A student cannot voluntarily participate or consent in hazing or any related activity. The actions by members of the organization, including current or former students, alumni, advisors, coaches, or staff associated with the group, are covered under this law.

This Anti-Hazing Policy covers all related behavior that occurs both on and off the King's College campus.

Hazing Defined

King's College defines hazing as any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such person or persons to participate, that—

- I. Is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and
- II. Causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - a. Whipping, beating, striking, marking, branding, paddling, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body or similar activity;
 - b. Consuming any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the person to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
 - c. Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - d. Transporting a student against their will;
 - e. Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts or be exposed indecently;
 - f. Requiring a person to perform personal service or acts of servitude;
 - g. Any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct or any activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to another person

- h. Hindering a person from practicing personal hygiene or fulfilling their academic requirements;
- i. Any activity that causes a person to endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, exclusion from social contact, or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
- j. Any activity against another person that includes a violation of local, State, Tribal, Federal law or College policies; and
- k. Any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of local, State, Tribal, Federal law, or College policies.

Hazing also includes acts that willfully destroy or remove public or private property for the purpose of initiation/pledging, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any organization recognized by the College (or in the case of fraternities and sororities, organizations not recognized by the College).

Hazing shall not include reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement or military training, contests, competitions or events.

Student Organization Defined

A student organization is defined as an organization at an institution of higher education (such as a club, society, association, varsity or junior varsity athletic team, club sports team, fraternity, sorority, band, music or arts group, peer group with a defined purpose or function, or student government) in which two or more of the members are students enrolled at the institution of higher education, whether or not the organization is established or recognized by the institution.

No organization may have as a condition for initial or continued membership any activity that can be defined as pledging, hazing, or any behavior that violates a person's conscience, good judgment, or norms generally accepted as governing behavior in society.

How to File a Report of Hazing

Students and staff may file a complaint of hazing or hazing-related behaviors as listed below:

- Contact Campus Safety and Security
 - Phone: (570) 208-5900
 - Office: 107/108 Ryan Hall
- Contact the Student Affairs Office/Dean of Students
 - Phone: (570) 208-5875
 - Office: 113 N. Franklin Street
 - studentaffairs@kings.edu
 - megancasey1475@kings.edu
- File an Anonymous Report
 - <https://kings.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting>

Commonwealth law includes a safe harbor provision that provides protection from criminal prosecution to individuals who make an immediate report of hazing to obtain medical attention for the victim.

Investigation and Adjudication Process

All reports of hazing received by the College will immediately be assigned to an Investigator in the Office of Campus Safety and Security. The Investigator will investigate the report, to include:

- Interviews with all involved persons and persons adjacent to the investigation
- Review of camera footage
- Review of ID card usage reports

Once the investigation is complete, the Investigator will compile all materials into a written report, and that report will be provided to the Student Affairs Office for referral to the College's Student Conduct Process. Individuals and/or groups/organizations referred to the Student Conduct Process will follow the full process, as outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

Penalties for Hazing

In addition to any applicable criminal penalties or sanctions imposed for violations of other King's College policies, organizations or individual members of organizations that violate the College's Policy on Anti-Hazing, Pledging, and Related Behaviors will be penalized for violation of this policy and face suspension from the College and withdrawal of College recognition of their organization.

Hazing can range in degree of criminal seriousness from a summary offense for any type of hazing to a felony for hazing involving bodily injury. The law includes penalties for organizations that intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly promote or facilitate hazing. The law provides penalties for institutional hazing when a college/university institutionally, knowingly, or recklessly promotes or facilitates a hazing violation.

Reporting of Hazing Violations—Federal Requirements

A Campus Hazing Transparency Report (CHTR) will be posted on the College's website every 6 months, no later than June 23 and December 23 each year, beginning with the first report which will be posted no later than December 23, 2025. The report will include hazing data for a five-year period, for all incidents in which a finding of responsibility is issued. The following information will be included in the report:

- The name of the organization
- A general description of the violation including:
 - the date the incident is alleged to have occurred
 - the date the investigation of the incident was initiated
 - any use or abuse of alcohol or illegal drugs during the incident
- The College's finding that a hazing violation occurred
 - And that the organization was notified of said finding
- The sanctions placed on the organization by the College

In accordance with FERPA, the Federal Rights and Privacy Act, the Campus Hazing Transparency Report will not include any personally identifiable information.

Additionally, all reports of hazing that are reported beginning January 1, 2025, will be posted in the King's College [Annual Security Report \(ASR\)](#), which is published no later than October 1 each year. The first Annual Security Report to include hazing statistics information will be the 2026 Annual Security Report. The statistics posted in the ASR may be different than those posted in the Campus Hazing Transparency Report, as the ASR requires posting of any incidents that are reported to the College, while the CHTR will report only those cases in which a finding of responsibility is made.

Reporting of Hazing Violations—State Requirements

As required by state law, the College maintains a report of all violations of this policy or state or federal laws related to hazing which are reported to the College. That report is posted on the College's [Consumer Information Overview](#) webpage, and contains the following information:

1. The name of the subject of the report.
2. The date the subject was charged.
3. A general description of the violation, any investigation, and any findings by the College, and if applicable, penalties.
4. The date on which the matter is resolved.

In compliance with state and federal law, no personally identifiable information is contained in this report. This report is updated biannually on January 1 and August 1.