



# Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma

## Stance on Branding/Scarification

Revised March 2010

The Current Hazing Policy of Tau Beta Sigma/Kappa Kappa Psi States:

*No chapter, colony, student member, membership candidate or alumnus of Kappa Kappa Psi or Tau Beta Sigma shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Permission or approval by a person being hazed is not a defense. Hazing activities are defined as:*

*“Any action taken or situation created that produces mental or physical harm, discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, paddling in any form, line ups for the purpose of intimidation, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks, quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, unnecessary road trips, wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with academic or musical achievement; Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma law, ritual or policy; or the regulations and policies of the educational institution, band program, or applicable state law.”*

Branding/Scarification is the modification of the human body through burning, cutting or other types of abrasion to the human skin and other areas. Branding/Scarification has increased risk of infection, slow healing third degree burns, internal injury, unintended permanent disfiguring deformities, and other medical issues. It is seen as causing “physical harm and discomfort” or providing a “physical shock” as outlined in the above policy.

The practice of Branding/Scarification or other forms of body modification that are associated with Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma in an unlicensed environment are “not consistent with academic or musical achievement; Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma law, ritual or policy; or the regulations and policies of the educational institution, band program, or applicable state law.”

Consequently, those who engage in the act of branding/scarification or other forms of modification in relation to Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma could be found in violation of Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma policy and are subject to action from the National Council. This includes forced or coerced body modification at licensed establishments.

**Always remember that willingness to consent to behavior is not a defense for hazing**