

The Code of Conduct
Of
Theta Gamma Fraternity

Preamble

Henceforth, let it be known that this shall be the code of conduct for all Brothers of Theta Gamma Fraternity. This code is meant to serve as a guide for Brothers of all ages in what is acceptable behavior. This code is also intended to serve as a guide for our Brothers in ‘the ways of Truthfulness and Worthiness’, and to lead our members towards a higher standard of living and service that will set us apart from all other fraternal organizations.

Our rituals tell us that ‘Truthfulness and Worthiness’ are ideals which our members should strive to attain. Our Brotherhood should be ‘so bound, that not even the sharpest trials or tribulations can cut them asunder’. This code is intended to serve as a guideline for a right way of living which may prevent discourse amongst our membership. This code is also intended to offer our membership a positive and ethical solution to the problems we may face.

Let it also be known that the Code of Conduct presented here is to be strictly enforced by all chapters of Theta Gamma Fraternity. Any active chapter may add to this code to suit their specific chapter needs but, may not detract from it. Failure to abide by this code by any Brother active or alumni may result in judiciary review, and possible sanctions by the judiciary board of an Active Chapter, a Chapter Corporate Board, or The Grand Council.

A two thirds majority vote of the Grand Council in session is required, to amend the Code of Conduct of Theta Gamma Fraternity.

The Code of Conduct will be in four parts:

1. The rights of a Brother
2. The responsibilities of a Brother
3. Actions which may cause judiciary review
4. Judiciary Boards

The Rights of a Brother

The rights of a Brother, regardless of pledge class, or chapter, apply to all members deemed to be in good standing with the Active Chapters, the Chapter Corporate Boards, and the Grand Council of Theta Gamma Fraternity. A member in good standing is one who has fulfilled all financial obligations to the fraternity, and has no existing judiciary sanctions against him. It is the responsibility of all chapters to report all members that are in bad standing to the Grand Council.

A member in good standing has the right to:

- Attend any and all open meetings of Theta Gamma Fraternity. Closed meetings called by an Active Chapter's executive boards, Corporate Boards, or The Grand Council are exceptions to this right.

- Voice their opinion regarding fraternity business and affairs without the fear of persecution or retribution, provided that member expresses themselves in a civil manner, and that it is done in the appropriate forum.
- To access and utilize the resources provided to, and for Theta Gamma Brothers.
- Be welcomed at any house or dwelling occupied by an Active Chapter of Theta Gamma Fraternity. All Brothers are to abide by the rules of the chapter that they are visiting.
- Attend any function sponsored by Grand Council or by any Active Chapter.
- To attend the Grand Council Convention.

The Responsibilities of a Brother

A responsible Brother must:

- Realize that all of their actions, positive and negative, reflect upon the Fraternity, as a whole. Members must understand that the public will remember the negative actions of a Fraternity member over the positive actions of the whole Fraternity.
- Take responsibility for their actions as a man of Theta Gamma. Mistakes and poor decisions will be made. Members are expected to learn from their mistakes. To do so, members must take responsibility for their actions, or lack thereof, and accept the consequences, including if applicable sanctions set forth by any Active Chapter, Corporate Board, or the Grand Council.
- Respect the rights and views of all Brothers in good standing, including honorary members. A member of Theta Gamma is a Brother, regardless of chapter, semester, or the year in which they pledged.
- Express their opinion, concern, or view without insults, slander or threats of physical violence towards another Brother.
- Approach all issues, disagreements, or conflicts with an open mind. It is our belief that all problems can be solved, and that the parties involved may need to compromise on both sides of an issue to find an agreeable solution.
- Promote Theta Gamma and its ideals at all times.
- Help a Brother in need when called upon.
- Fulfill any and all financial obligations to the fraternity. This is a requirement to be considered a Brother in good standing.
- Follow any and all reasonable requests of an Active Chapter officer, a Chapter Corporate Board officer, or a Grand Council officer made in the performance of their respective office.
- Realize that Theta Gamma business shall remain private and confidential and shall not be discussed with non-members, or any Brother known to be in bad standing with the Fraternity.
- Stand up for their beliefs to the best of their ability, and express them in a respectful manner.
- Not to post Theta Gamma private business, sensitive information, or sensitive business on any social media websites
- To be mindful of his actions toward other members when posting to any social media websites.
- To accept responsibility for the actions of any non-member he may bring as a guest to any Active Chapter dwelling, and/or any function sponsored by an Active Chapter, Chapter Corporate Board, or Grand Council sponsored event.
- Report conduct that violates this code of conduct to an officer of an Active Chapter, a Chapters Corporate Board, or the Grand Council.

Actions Which May Cause Judiciary Review

The following examples are reasons a Brother may be brought before a judiciary committee. The reasons are not limited to these examples, and are to be considered on a case by case basis.

- Hazing or any reckless or premeditated act that results in the endangerment of a pledge, either physically, or mentally.
- Threats of violence or actual violence towards a Brother, whether physical or verbal.
- Threats made toward a Brother on social media websites.
- Discussing private Theta Gamma business on social media websites.
- Exposing any of the secrets and mysteries of Theta Gamma.
- Destruction of property. This includes the property of another member, a chapter, or a dwelling of Theta Gamma.
- The removal of any item or items which are deemed as chapter property from any chapter house without the express permission of that chapter, such as paddles, plaques, or any other memorabilia. Especially the “kidnapping” of such items by visiting members of Active Chapters.
- Purposely giving false information for self-achievement.
- Placing the fraternity in danger for self-gain.
- Any action that results in the arrival of law enforcement at a Theta Gamma dwelling or function.
- Any action or inaction by a Brother that places a Brother, chapter or the fraternity in peril.
- Any conduct unbecoming of a Brother.

Judiciary Boards

The Grand Council recognizes the necessity of each Active Chapter and Chapter Corporate Board to have their own judiciary boards, and, or systems in place to enforce the chapter rules, as well as the Code of Conduct. The Grand Council defers to those boards in dealing with issues pertaining to their chapter houses, and their day to day operation. The Grand Council respects and supports the decisions made by these boards, and therefore the Grand Council Judiciary Board will not serve as a “board of appeals” for members dissatisfied with their rulings. An Active Chapter or Chapter Corporate Board may, however, request a ruling by the Grand Council Judiciary Board on matters they believe are out of their jurisdiction or in matters they feel would be best handled by the Grand Council Judiciary Committee.

As proponents of civil conduct between members on every platform, the Grand Council shall have jurisdiction with regards to the conduct of Theta Gamma members on social media websites. If interactions between members on social media outlets turn to that of a threatening, or derogatory nature toward another member, chapter, or the Fraternity itself, it becomes necessary that such behavior be addressed.

The values of Theta Gamma Fraternity should at all times be upheld by its members regardless of the means through which they communicate. Therefore, our membership is deserving of a system allowing them to address conduct unbecoming of a Brother on social

media. Members should report concerns regarding conduct unbecoming of a Brother to the Grand Council Executive Board.

The chair of the Grand Council Ethics Committee shall be appointed by the Grand Exalted Master of Theta Gamma Fraternity, and shall serve permanently, or until such time as his resignation of the position. When selecting a member to be appointed to this position, the Grand Exalted Master shall seek a man of the highest moral character, a man who is a reflection of the lofty ideals and standards of our noble order, a man who has proven himself to be both wise and fair. No man shall gain this appointment without the unanimous consent of the Grand Council Executive Board members.

The chair of the Grand Council Ethics Committee shall have full charge of the Grand Council Judiciary Board. He shall have the power to select impartial members to serve on the board, those members are to be selected on a case by case basis. The board will consist of one Grand Councilman in good standing from each Active Chapter. The chair of the Ethics Committee will be responsible for investigating, and presenting the facts of any case to the Judiciary Board members. In the event a Brother is found to be in violation of "The Code of Conduct", the Grand Council Judiciary Board, if they deem necessary, shall be responsible for deciding upon the appropriate sanctions.

Decisions of the Grand Council Judiciary Board shall require a majority vote; the chair of the Grand Council Ethics Committee shall hold any tie breaking vote. The exception to this process will be in the case of removal of a Brother from membership. Removal from membership is never to be taken lightly, and as such shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Judiciary Board, as well as a 2/3 majority vote of the Grand Council Executive Board. In the event the chair of the Ethics Committee deems himself unable to be impartial in any case brought before the Judiciary Board, he may appoint any Councilman in good standing to vote in his stead.

Those wishing to report a violation of the "Code of Conduct" shall submit in writing to the chair of the Grand Council Ethics Committee, a detailed account of the incident, along with any documentation which may corroborate the account, such as witnesses, copies of social media posts, text messages, emails, and so on.