



Risk Management Foundation

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10 Steps to Developing a Designated Driver Program

A designated driver program is important to help ensure that your brothers and guests return home safely. The following list explains how to effectively develop and implement a designated driver program that will help your chapter provide for the safety and betterment of your brotherhood and the community.

1. Design your program to be simple, defined and reliable and to involve all members of the chapter.
2. Select a team of members (other than pledges) to serve as designated drivers for social events. Consider making designated drivers available every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.
3. For days on which designated drivers are available, announce specific hours that drivers will be on-call: for example, one hour before and after the event, or from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., with brothers alternating shifts.
4. Ensure that every brother volunteering as a designated driver:
 - does not consume alcohol or any controlled substance before or during his assigned shift;
 - makes sure that all of his passengers during his shift get all the way into their residences safely (Don't just leave them at the curb, as they may go elsewhere, wander into traffic, pass out before getting in their front doors, etc.); and
 - takes any passenger who exhibits further impairment during transport (vomits, complains of chest pain, behaves erratically, passes out, etc.) to a hospital for attention or calls 911 for help.
5. If your chapter is hosting an event, require all guests to use chapter-provided transportation such as buses, or collect keys from brothers and guests attending the event and return the keys only if the brothers or guests have a designated driver.
6. Allow brothers to select certain days to serve as designated drivers. Disseminate a list the first of each month for brothers to select what dates work best for them to serve as designated drivers.
7. Reward volunteers with modest incentives. Common incentives include house privileges, small dues reductions, etc.
8. Ensure there is an effective communication method for brothers, pledges and guests to contact the designated drivers (standard phone number that can be forwarded from phone to phone for calls or a single number for text messages and/or a free group texting app).
9. Create a wallet card with the appropriate contact information, including public transportation, university, emergency, chapter, and designated driver phone numbers.
10. Enlist the help of your university and its campus transportation services. If your university does not currently have a Designated Driver program, contact your Greek Life Office about establishing one.

Issues of RISKWATCH and case studies on the RMF website are effective educational tools your chapter should use in educating your membership on the negative consequences of alcohol abuse.

The RMF is committed to helping you make your chapter and community as safe as it can be. Please e-mail RMF@sigmachi.org for more information.