



STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT & NEW CLERY ACT REGULATIONS

This training bulletin provides Department members with guidance on California Penal Code Section 245.6, as it relates to hazing and the federal *Stop Campus Hazing Act*, as well as documentation of hazing incidents, to ensure proper reporting pursuant to the *Clery Act*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

California Assembly Bill 1454 (AB 1454) was passed in February 2006, which codified *Matt's Law*, named after Matt Carrington, a student at California State University Chico, who died due to an act of hazing. AB 1454 created California Penal Code Section 245.6, which allows for prosecution for injuries (physical and psychological) as a result of hazing.

California Assembly Bill 2193 (AB 2193) was passed in September 2024, which codified California's *Stop Campus Hazing Act* for institutions of higher education, creating civil liability for institutions of higher education in the State of California for acts of hazing. Additionally, the United States Congress passed its own federal *Stop Campus Hazing Act* (December 2024), which amended the *Clery Act* to include reporting requirements for hazing incidents that occur after January 1, 2025.

HAZING DEFINED

Under California Penal Code (PC) Section 245.6(b):

*(b) "Hazing" means any method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or student body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is **likely to cause** serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective student of any school, community college, college, university, or other educational institution in this state. The term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or school-sanctioned events.*

Under PC § 245.6(c):

(c) A violation of this section that does not result in serious bodily injury is a misdemeanor...

Under PC § 245.6(d):

(d) Any person who personally engages in hazing that results in death or serious bodily injury...is guilty of either a misdemeanor or a felony...



Under the Clery Act, hazing is defined as:

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with others) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that:

- *is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization; and*
- **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:*
 - *whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;*
 - *causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;*
 - *causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;*
 - *causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;*
 - *any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;*
 - *any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and*
 - *any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.*

Under the Clery Act and the Stop Campus Hazing Act, the term "student organization" is jointly 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, 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.*



VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BULLETIN

#25-006

PROCEDURE

Hazing, as it applies to the *Clery Act*, generally requires involvement of a student organization. While the VCCCD does not currently have fraternities or sororities, each college has established student organizations and clubs (e.g., M.E.Ch.A., Women in STEM Club, Nature's Finest, etc.). Furthermore, because the *Stop Campus Hazing Act* applies to unofficial/unrecognized student organizations, it is possible that students may have developed their own "underground" organizations, for which the VCCCD would be responsible for reporting hazing incidents involving such organizations.

If an officer encounters an incident with evidence that hazing has occurred, the officer shall document the crime in accordance with standard operating procedures (cite-and-release, arrest, etc.).

To ensure the hazing crime is properly documented and included in the Daily Crime/Fire Log, officers shall ensure both of the following are entered into RIMS:

1. Select the appropriate offense code in RIMS:
 - a. NIBRS Code 13B – 245.6(a) PC for general misdemeanor hazing incidents (no serious bodily injury).
 - b. NIBRS Code 09A – 245.6(d) PC for felony hazing incidents resulting in death.
 - c. NIBRS Code 13A – 245.6(d) PC for felony hazing incidents resulting in serious bodily injury.
 - d. NIBRS Code 09A – 245.6(d) PC for misdemeanor hazing incidents resulting in death.
 - e. NIBRS Code 13A – 245.6(d) PC for misdemeanor hazing incidents resulting in serious bodily injury.

245.2 PC	520	F	Assault w/deadly weapon on transportation personnel/etc - Weapon law violat
245.3 PC	13A	F	Assault w/deadly weapon w/likely gbi on custodial officer - Aggravated (F)
245.3 PC	520	F	Assault w/deadly weapon w/likely gbi on custodial officer - Weapon law violat
245.5(A) PC	13A	F	Adw/likely gbi on school employee: not firearm - Aggravated (F)
245.5(A) PC	520	F	Adw/likely gbi on school employee: not firearm - Weapon law violations (F)
245.5(B) PC	13A	F	Assault w/firearm on school employee - Aggravated (F)
245.5(B) PC	520	F	Assault w/firearm on school employee - Weapon law violations (F)
245.5(C) PC	13A	F	Assault w/stun gun/taser on school employee (F)
245.5(C) PC	13A	M	Aslt schol emp w/stun gun (M)
245.6(A) PC	13B	M	Hazing: without sbi (M)
245.6(D) PC	09A	F	Hazing: results in death or serious bodily injury - Murder/non-negligent mansla
245.6(D) PC	13A	F	Hazing: results in death or serious bodily injury - Aggravated (F)
245.6(D) PC	09A	M	Hazing: results in death or serious bodily injury - Murder/non-negligent mansla
245.6(D) PC	13A	M	Hazing: results in death or serious bodily injury - Aggravated (M)
24510 PC	520	F	Mfg/sale/possess/etc firearm not immediately recognizable (F)
24510 PC	520	M	Mfg/sale/possess/etc firearm not immediately recognizable (M)
246 PC	13A	F	Shoot at inhabited dwelling/vehicle/etc - Aggravated (F)
246 PC	520	F	Shoot at inhabited dwelling/vehicle/etc - Weapon law violations (F)
246 PC	290	F	Shoot at inhabited dwelling/vehicle/etc - Destruction/damage/vandalism of pr
246 PC	13A	M	Shoot at inhabited dwelling/vehicle/etc - Aggravated (M)



VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BULLETIN

#25-006

2. Select the appropriate Special Circumstance in RIMS:

a. Hazing (HZ)

A screenshot of a software interface showing a dropdown menu titled "Special Circumstances". The menu is open, displaying a list of options. "Hazing" is selected and highlighted in blue. The other options are: CLERY - Sexual Battery, CLERY - Sodomy, CLERY - Statutory Rape, CLERY - Weapons Possession, Gang Activity, Identity Theft, None, Other Agency Assist, Prop 36 Qualified, Semester - Fall, and Semester - Spring.

Special Circumstances
Hazing
CLERY - Sexual Battery
CLERY - Sodomy
CLERY - Statutory Rape
CLERY - Weapons Possession
Gang Activity
Identity Theft
None
Other Agency Assist
Prop 36 Qualified
Semester - Fall
Semester - Spring

3. Ensure a BIT/BICT/CARE Team report is filed in Maxient.

NOTE: As of the creation of this training bulletin, the VCCCD does not have a Board Policy (BP) nor an Administrative Procedure (AP) regarding hazing incidents. In the event the VCCCD creates BP/AP that expands upon the State and Federal definitions for hazing incidents, these procedures may change. Any updates will be disseminated in a timely manner.

**SCENARIOS**

Two individuals are discovered breaking into the Administration building after a 9-1-1 call to local police. The suspects are apprehended, and you find a piece of paper on their person with a list of items. One the list, it reads, "Something old, something new, and something stolen for the Order, too." You recognize "The Order" as a known secret society at the institution.

- Was a Clery Act crime committed?

☒ YES ☐ NO

- Did the incident fall within Clery Act geography?

☒ YES ☐ NO

- How should this incident be counted?

This incident should include one count of HAZING and one count of BURGLARY that

occurred on ON-CAMPUS property.

A student rushing the newly recognized Beta Pi fraternity at Ventura College attends a small party one evening in the new Ventura College student housing apartments. At the party, the student's hands were duct taped to a 40oz bottle of Bacardi, and he was told to finish the bottle by the end of the night. The student reported that senior fraternity members told him that this was a requirement for him specifically, as he was Black and they do not typically let Black students into their fraternity, but for him they were making an exception. Senior fraternity members made it clear that they were "taking a risk" by allowing a Black student to rush, and that if that student did not follow through, they would "make his life miserable." The student became sick halfway through, trying to finish the bottle alone, and was taken to the hospital for alcohol poisoning.

- Was a Clery Act crime committed?

☒ YES ☐ NO

- Did the incident fall within Clery Act geography?

☒ YES ☐ NO

- How should this incident be counted?

This incident should include one count of HAZING and one count of AGGRAVATED

ASSAULT with a hate crime bias motivation of RACE that occurred on ON-CAMPUS

STUDENT HOUSING.

Training Bulletin composed by:

CSO Andrew Bumblis