



SOBER MONITOR PROGRAM

Sober monitors have the important responsibility of helping to monitor chapter social events to provide a safe social environment. They are charged with monitoring social events and following the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy*, applicable policies of the College/University and local Interfraternity Council, and the policies of any co-sponsoring organization(s). This resource is intended to help a chapter think through how to set up an effective sober monitor/officer system.

Expectations of a Sober Monitor Program

- Monitors are not to consume alcohol on the day of the social event.
- One monitor for every 10-15 guests is recommended.
- At least two sober chapter officers (one being a member of the Executive Committee) for each event is recommended.
- If the event is co-sponsored, an equal number of monitors from each sponsoring organization should be utilized.
- Prior to the event, monitors should meet with the Risk Reduction Chairman and Social Chairman to discuss role/scope of responsibilities and stations for the event.
- Specialty clothing should be worn by the monitors and sober officers to set them apart from the rest of the attendees (e.g. highly visible t-shirt or jacket).
- The Commander, Risk Reduction Chairman, and Social Chairman should limit their use of alcohol (if consuming at all and if of legal drinking age) during social events so they can, along with the monitors, ensure that a safe social environment is maintained.

Sober Monitor/Officer Stations

- There should be a sober monitor at every exit/entrance to the building.
- There should be a minimum of two sober monitors at the main entrance of the event (and there should be only one entrance for the event while multiple exits for the event).
- There should be a sober monitor stationed at any part of the house/venue that is prohibited to members and guests.
- There should be monitors walking around the event.

Responsibilities of the Sober Monitor

- Monitors at the entry of the event are responsible for checking identification cards and enforcing the guest list. There should be a system for marking those members and guests above and below the legal drinking age (e.g. wristbands, handstamp unique to the event).
- Monitors should be prepared to exercise their right to deny access to the event to anyone not on the guest list as well as those who they think is already impaired by alcohol or other drugs, wearing offensive attire, or acting inappropriately or aggressively, even if the person is on the invitation list.
- All monitors must fully understand the chapter's crisis management plan. If an emergency arises, the monitor should be able to call 911, if appropriate, and quickly end the social function.
- Monitors should be prepared to ask members/guests to leave if they become too intoxicated and behave inappropriately. If they are uncooperative, call the police.



- Monitors should respond to any disruptions that take place at the event.
- Monitors should be prepared to notify hired security (if applicable) if they see a situation that requires attention.
- Monitors should prevent guests from leaving the event with alcohol.
- Monitors should be prepared to find alternative transportation for impaired guests (professional taxi service is preferred).

Things to Consider for your Chapter

- How will the monitors and officers be selected for each social event? Rotation, volunteer, etc.?
 - It is inappropriate and ineffective for adequate event monitoring to rely solely on candidate members to serve as sober monitors. If candidates are to be used, an equal number of initiates should also be serving as sober monitors.
- How many monitors will you have for the event (one monitor for every 10-15 guests is recommended)?
- What specialty clothing will monitors wear?
- Which officer(s) is responsible for meeting monitors to review responsibilities prior to the event?
- What are the specific responsibilities for the monitors and officers?

Hired Security

- Depending on the type, size, and location of the event, hiring licensed third-party security is recommended. Off-duty police officers are preferred when and where possible. If hiring an outside security company, please consult the [Security Vendor Checklist](#) to assist in securing an appropriate security service. One security person for each 100 guests is recommended.

Adapted from the NIC BYOB Resource and resources available from Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.