**HAZING IN THE FIRST DEGREE

(Causing Injury)

Penal Law § 120.16

(Committed on or after Nov. 1, 1988)**

**Revised Jan. 2019 1**

The (*specify*) count is Hazing in the First Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Hazing in the First Degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization,2 he or she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct, including, but not limited to, making physical contact with or requiring physical activity of such other person3, which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person [*or* to a third person] and thereby causes such injury.

The following terms used in that definition have a special meaning:

PHYSICAL INJURY means impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.4

A person acts INTENTIONALLY when that person's conscious objective or purpose is to cause a particular result or to engage in particular conduct. Thus, a person intentionally

1The January 2019 revision added the phrase: “including, but not limited to, making physical contact with or requiring physical activity of such other person,” which was added by L. 2018, ch. 188, effective August 13, 2018. Thus that phrase may only be included in a prosecution for an offense charged to have been committed on or after that effective date.

2 “Since the term ‘organization’ is not defined in the Penal Law, it retains its commonsense meaning. ‘Any organization’ is thus defined as ‘[a] body of persons . . . formed for a common purpose’ (Black's Law Dictionary 1133 [8th ed 2004]). *In re Khalil H*., 80 A.D.3d 83, 89 (2d Dept. 2010)

(internal citation omitted).

3 See footnote one.

4 Penal Law § 10.00(9); *See People v. Chiddick*, 8 NY3d 445 (2007).

engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to another person when his or her conscious objective or purpose is to engage in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to another person.5

A person RECKLESSLY engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk that physical injury to another person will occur,

when he or she engages in such conduct and is aware of and consciously disregards such risk,

and when the risk of physical injury is of such nature and degree that disregard of that risk constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person would observe in the situation.6

[*NOTE: Where there is evidence of voluntary intoxication on the part of the defendant, add:*

A person also acts recklessly when he or she creates such a risk but is unaware of that risk solely by reason of his or her voluntary intoxication.7]

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, both of the following two elements:

1. That on or about  *(date)*  , in the County of  *(county)*  , the

defendant,  *(defendant's name)*  , in the course of *(specify)*'s initiation or affiliation with *(name of organization)*, engaged in conduct, including, but not limited to, making physical contact with or requiring physical activity of such other person8, which created

5 *See* Penal Law §15.05(1).

6 *See* Penal Law § 15.05(3); *People v. Boutin*, 75 NY2d 692, 696 (1990).

7 *See* Penal Law § 15.05(3).

8 See footnote one.

a substantial risk of physical injury to  *(specify)*  and thereby caused physical injury to  *(specify)*  ; and

2. That the defendant engaged in such conduct

intentionally or recklessly.

If you find the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of this crime.

If you find the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime.