Let us serve like Jesus - Let us Journey together

**Lapsed**

1. Lapsed status describes a member who has not fulfilled one or more of the requirements of active life, has not requested to be excused from those requirements (NS 18.7.b), and who, after repeated personal invitations to return to the fraternity, consciously and deliberately rejects or ignores the invitations.
2. Council initiates the process to change to this status only after engaging with the member in dialogue to determine the reason for the absence or disengagement and how the member might be brought back to full participation.
	1. There must be a minimum of three attempts to contact the member before this action is taken.
	2. The criteria below are to be used to evaluate if a member should be classified as Lapsed; all criteria must be met. They are intended to be objective, written, specific, fair, and to conform to the National Statues and General Constitutions. They should, however, be implemented with charity.
		1. Member has not attended a gathering in the past three months.
		2. Member has missed six (6) or more gatherings in the preceding year.
		3. Member has not given a valid reason for absences, nor made anyone on Council aware of extenuating circumstances.
		4. Member has not communicated with anyone on Council, or to Council’s knowledge, with anyone in the fraternity, for the past three months, about the absences or, having communicated with Council, member has not accepted invitations to return to life with the fraternity, indicated a willingness to do so, or indicated the absence is for a limited duration.
	3. If the member has requested a change to Active-Excused status, and Council has already considered that request and rejected it. The process to change a member’s status to Lapsed:
		1. Council notices the member is absent without reason for an extended period.
		2. Council, or someone on behalf of Council, attempts to contact the member and bring him/her back into full participation.
		3. The member either declines to do so or cannot be contacted.
		4. At least three different attempts must be made.
		5. Council evaluates the criteria; if all are satisfied, they proceed to the next step.
	4. Process:
		1. Council sends a written communication to the member expressing their concern and laying out the possibility of being changed to Lapsed. This will often cause the member to respond and dialogue can start.
		2. If the member responds, enter into dialogue to determine the best path forward that leads to full participation. This resets the timer for the criteria.
		3. If the member does not respond, or if the dialogue is not fruitful, then after a suitable period, with three attempts to contact the member already having been made, Council may vote on changing the member’s status to Lapsed.
		4. If Council makes this change the Minister informs the member in writing, stating the action taken and the reasons for doing so, but always inviting the member back into the fraternity family.
		5. The Minister also informs the person within the Regional Fraternity who is responsible for updating the National Database, and the Secretary updates the fraternity’s records to reflect the changed status.
3. A Lapsed member remains a member of the Order but cannot vote on any matters, may not hold or be elected to any office, may not serve on any committee, and is no longer obligated to provide financial support (NS 18.6,7).
	1. If a Lapsed member attends a gathering or a fraternity activity, s/he should be welcomed back and encouraged to renew ties with the fraternity. None of these restrictions should be interpreted as prohibiting communication with the lapsed member.
4. A member wishing to return from Lapsed to Active status must make a written request of Council to be considered Active.
	1. Council will consider the request, taking into account the member’s recent actions, changed circumstances of the member’s life, and the original reasons for having been changed to Lapsed.
	2. If granted, the member is expected to once more fulfill all obligations of an Active member; if not granted, the member remains Lapsed.
	3. The Minister shall inform the member in writing of the decision.