



2MC - House Reimbursements

You are the newly elected Treasurer of your fraternity/sorority and are excited to hold a leadership role. Each fall, your house hosts a BBQ as a fundraiser for cancer patients. The President of your house purchased all the supplies this year. As the Treasurer, you are responsible for all reimbursements. As you glance over the receipt the President gave you, you notice a few things on there that you think were not used for the BBQ, like shampoo and some deodorant. You guess they were for the President's personal use. You add up the total: the possible personal use items amount to \$25 of the total of \$300 worth of supplies. While it could be a mistake or misunderstanding, it could also mean that the President's personal spending is cutting into the profits to be donated to cancer patients. S/he just texted you asking to come by and pick up the reimbursement check because s/he is heading to the bank. What do you do?

Takeaway Lessons

- ▶ What you do will set a precedent you may live with for a long time
- ▶ You will be signing your name to the house's expenses
- ▶ How you define this issue will affect how it turns out: if you see this as stealing from the charity, that leads one direction. If you think about how much the president devotes to the house and figure s/he deserves a little in return here or there, it leads another direction.
- ▶ If you decide to raise your concerns, how you say/phrase it will have a big effect on the outcome of your interaction. Develop a personal script that follows the rules for having a dispute!

Issues

- ✓ Consequences of confrontation
 - ✓ Confront: Relationship with President
 - ✓ Do not confront: Less money raised
- ✓ Stealing from a fundraiser
- ✓ Responsibility to leadership position and fraternity
- ✓ Responsibility to fundraiser

Rules and Regulations

- ✓ Fraternity Policies
 - ✓ What are your houses policies?
 - ✓ Is there a national council you can reach out to?
- ✓ Authority
 - ✓ Who checks the books and analyzes the receipts?
 - ✓ Do executive board members have an unwritten discretionary budget?
- ✓ Your moral compass
 - ✓ What is the right thing to do?

Relevant Questions

- ✓ What is your responsibility to your fraternity and to the fundraiser?
 - ✓ Maximize amount raised?
 - ✓ Perform job as best you know how?
- ✓ Were the items actually for personal use?
 - ✓ Could it be a misunderstanding?
 - ✓ Were they indeed for personal use?
 - ✓ Was it an accident?
- ✓ What are the consequences?

- ✓ Will it damage your relationship with the president if you do confront him?
- ✓ Will the outcome of the fundraiser fall on you if you fail to confront him?
- ✓ If you confront, how do you pose the question?
 - ✓ Aggressive vs. conversational
- ✓ Should you go straight to the President or an alternate resource?
 - ✓ Talk to the national council or another member?
- ✓ What role do ethics have when you consider the situation?
 - ✓ What do your values tell you about making an ethical decision?

Available Resources

- ✓ In the Fraternity
 - ✓ The past Treasurer: What would he do?
 - ✓ The past President: What would he do? How would he feel if questioned?
 - ✓ Other people on the executive board
- ✓ What is the right thing to do?
- ✓ The Fraternity's national council
 - ✓ Is personal spending acceptable?
 - ✓ What are the rules?
 - ✓ What are the consequences
- ✓ Outside of the organization: Parents or an adult role model?
- ✓ What is morally right?

Available Options

- ✓ Write the check and don't ask any questions.
- ✓ Ask the President about it and go from there.
- ✓ Write the check after subtracting the personal expenses.
- ✓ Hold off and first discuss the situation with an outside resource