Sigma Cares for Its Own

“Sigma Cares for Its Own” provides the opportunity for members of Phi Beta Sigma to enhance the understanding of Brotherhood during times of need. Specifically, this program provides information about Brothers who needed the support and prayers in times of loss and illness, through phone calls, letters and postings. The goal of Sigma Cares is to remind Brothers that every aspect of their lives matters to their fraternity brothers. Brothers and their families in need find comfort through the outreach provided by the Sigma Cares network of Brothers who take the belief of being their “Brothers’ Keeper” to the next level.

Protocol

At the International level, the Sigma Cares team (consisting of the Director of Sigma Cares and the International Chaplain, with direct support from the International Headquarters Communications Department) receives notices of illness and transitions from members of the Brotherhood primarily through email and phone calls. Information is usually shared directly from Brothers, chapter members, local associates or family members. When the Team receives the communication, one of them calls the member or their family to offer support and to gather information about how the Fraternity can be of assistance during this time. This support includes:

- Contacting a local resource who can be present with the member or their family and secure information about making contact during illness or for services of transition;
- Working with local members and/or chapters to conduct the Omega Chapter ceremony (with the permission of the family). When a member of the immediate family passes, Sigma Cares encourages local members to support the family by being present with the family when possible;
- Working with IHQ to secure an official letter of condolence from the Fraternity;
- Posting information about for the general membership regarding the illness of Brothers and/or the transition of Brothers or members of their immediate families.*

As much as possible, local chapters as well as regional and state representatives should be involved in the care of their members and families. This would include being present with members and/or families, coordinating and conducting the Omega Chapter service, and development of proclamations and resolutions. Please note: Sigma Cares for Its Own does not prepare proclamations or resolutions.

*Immediate family members include: spouses and children, siblings, and parents. Sigma Cares arranges for letters of condolence to brothers or those mentioned in this grouping.