

PARENT playbook



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

20 E. 11th Avenue
studentlegal.osu.edu
614-247-5853
studentlegal@osu.edu



Dear Parent of an Ohio State Freshman,

Congratulations! Your child is headed to college!

No doubt this is an exciting time. It might be a little daunting, too.

Good news! Your student has access to a law office specifically dedicated to **supporting student success** by providing legal advice, representation, education, and resources to Ohio State students.

We are **the lawyers for Ohio State students**, and we look forward to helping your student.

Sincerely, **STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Lawyers for Students

SLS lawyers are licensed to practice in Ohio, and have over 80 years of experience combined. Before joining SLS, the lawyers practiced in private firms, non-profit legal services, the Office of the Public Defender and the Prosecutor's Office.



Areas of Law

Employment / Internship	Landlord-Tenant
Contracts	Consumer
Credit & Debt	Will & Living Will
Criminal Misdemeanor	Power of Attorney
Traffic Citation	Uncontested Domestic
Expungement	Victims of Crime
Immigration & Naturalization	Notary
Insurance	& Much More

Our Office

Conveniently located at **20 E. 11th Avenue**, we have appointments available Monday - Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Students can schedule online or by calling our office.




Stay in Touch!

Phone: (614) 247-5853

Email: studentlegal@osu.edu

Website: studentlegal.osu.edu

Parent Newsletter: Sign up to keep informed about the latest news from Student Legal Services:
studentlegal.osu.edu/parents

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Do Students Really Need Lawyers?

Yes! Student Legal Services aids thousands of students each year. At 18, your student is legally an adult. Most students, however, are relatively inexperienced and have few resources available to handle legal issues which can significantly impact their future lives and careers. Timely legal assistance can minimize long-term consequences and reduce distraction from a student's academic career.

Do SLS Lawyers Represent Students in Court?

Yes! SLS lawyers are in court every weekday representing Ohio State students with criminal and traffic charges. SLS also represents students involved in civil litigation here in Franklin County.

How Can Parents Support Students?

With your student's permission, you are welcome to attend appointments, be conferenced in by phone, and be otherwise involved. Because students are our clients, your student must sign a waiver before our staff can discuss the legal matter with you. However, the waiver process is easy, and can be completed by your student electronically.

What is the Cost?

The \$40.00 annual SLS participation fee is automatically charged to eligible students and provides legal services to students from August 1 - July 31. The fee covers all SLS services for the year. Students can waive coverage. But, students who waive cannot re-enroll later in the participation year when a legal issue arises, no exceptions.

Do I Need to Hire an Attorney?

No. Student Legal Services' lawyers are the lawyers for **Ohio State students**. The Ohio State University specifically contracts with Student Legal Services to provide legal advice, representation, education, and resources to Ohio State students. There is no need to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for a private attorney for your child. Not when you have Student Legal Services' experience and knowledge.

Is this even a legal issue?

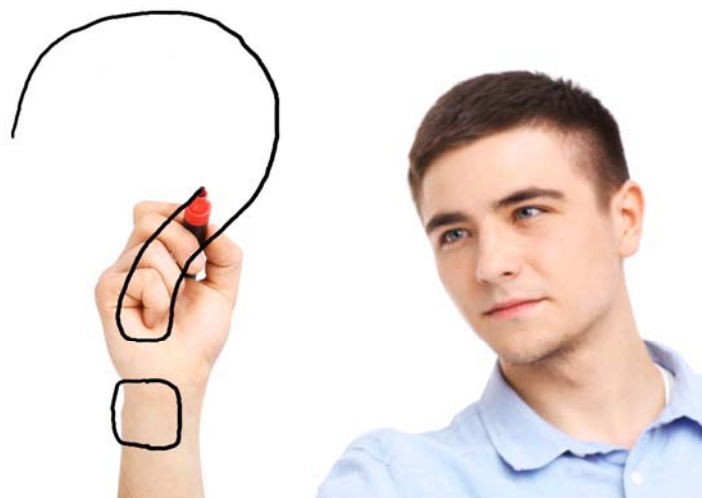
If you or your student are unsure whether the issue is legal in nature, or whether SLS covers the issue, please call

614-247-5853 or email studentlegal@osu.edu.

SLS's friendly and capable staff is available to determine if we are the best resource, and if not, to provide referral information to resources at Ohio State or in the community.

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

Students can schedule an appointment by calling 614-247-5853 or online at studentlegal.osu.edu.





Your child is now an adult
But, they may still need you

Do you have the legal
documents in place to help?
Student Legal Services can help

Health Care Power of Attorney

The last thing you want in a medical emergency is to be out of the loop and unable to discuss your student's medical situation. A **Healthcare Power of Attorney** allows you to make medical decisions for your student if your student cannot do so.

General Power of Attorney

A **General Power of Attorney** gives you access to your student's financial accounts and the authority to sign documents and contracts on your student's behalf.

Living Will

A **Living Will** documents the student's wishes regarding end of life choices, including life-sustaining treatment and organ donation.

How it works...

Your student can schedule online at studentlegal.osu.edu. We will conduct the first appointment by phone during which we will discuss your student's options and the documents they need. Parents can be, but do not need to be, part of this appointment.

We will then draft your student's documents and send them to your student via email for review. When the documents are final, we will schedule for your student to sign the documents in our office. Parents do not need to attend the signing.

First-year undergraduates generally are not eligible for services until August 1st. However, SLS will accept appointments for these services before August 1.



FERPA Release

Ohio State requires students to complete a **FERPA release** to give parents access to education records. Without the release, Ohio State will not give you a student's academic, account, or financial information. Your student can complete the release at <https://go.osu.edu/ferparelease>



The reality is, sometimes college students make mistakes.

IF YOUR CHILD IS IN TROUBLE, YOU NEED LAWYERS YOU CAN TRUST

You need lawyers with experience representing Ohio State students.

Student Legal Services lawyers are in court every day.

We know the system. We know students.

Underage Drinking

Ohio State Police, Columbus Police, Franklin County Sheriff, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Liquor Control. Sometimes, they're in uniform. Sometimes, they're undercover. What they all have in common is that each year, they encounter Ohio State students drinking underage and they can charge students for unlawful behavior.

Fake ID, Real Consequences

The mere possession of a Fake ID can result in criminal charges, even if a student is not using it to purchase alcohol at that time. Please encourage your child not to get a Fake ID. The law deals with these cases harshly, and some employers view a Fake ID charge on a student's record as a sign of dishonesty.

Expungements

SLS regularly assists students with sealing criminal records. In Ohio, record sealing does not mean that the record is completely "expunged." Certain career routes and graduate programs require background checks that can access sealed records. SLS lawyers advise students who are required to disclose criminal charges in order to minimize impacts on their job search, licensure, and graduate school applications.

Student Conduct

Ohio State's Code of Student Conduct governs student's conduct on campus, and may also apply to certain off-campus conduct as well. While SLS lawyers cannot represent students in a Conduct hearing, SLS frequently provides advice about the process and potential sanctions.



First Year Success Series

During the first year survey course, students choose from a variety of workshops. Your student should opt for Student Legal Services' workshop, "Under 21? Don't be Dumb and Other Lessons from Your Lawyer!" to learn about criminal rights & responsibilities.



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

THE
for LAWYERS
OHIO STATE
students

the OFF-CAMPUS TIMELINE



Pre-Lease



Students begin looking for off-campus housing at the start of Sophomore Year. We all want them to be well-educated consumers. Freshmen can schedule a **pre-lease** appointment with SLS before summer break to review budgeting, finding housing, evaluating properties and landlords, and more.

Living Off-Campus

SLS lawyers support students **living off campus**. If your student has difficulty getting repairs made, needs to terminate a lease, has questions about a security deposit, or has other leasing issues, SLS lawyers can help.

Sublease



Some students stay in Columbus the summer between Freshman and Sophomore year. Many choose to sublease. SLS lawyers advise students about subleasing, and provide **sublease** agreements to protect their rights.

Renters Insurance

The landlord's insurance likely does not cover your student's belongings. Your student needs **renters insurance**. If you own a home, check your homeowner's policy—your student may be covered for off-campus housing. Otherwise, you can bundle with car insurance, or purchase affordable policies elsewhere.



Finding Housing



SLS and Ohio State's Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement present to Sophomores about off-campus housing. Encourage your student to attend a **presentation**, regularly held throughout the year.

Visit studentlegal.osu.edu/presentations for a list of available presentations.

Roommate Agreement

Most student leases contain a "joint and several liability" clause. Everyone signing shares joint responsibility for rent and any damages. Co-signors are also liable on leases. Students should complete a **roommate agreement**. A sample is provided at the lease review and on SLS's website.

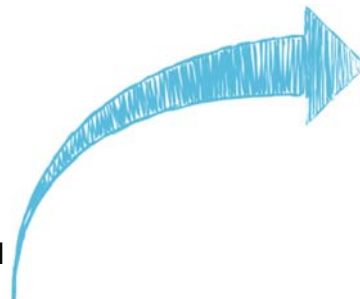


LEASE REVIEW



Do not allow your student to sign a lease until Student Legal Services reviews the lease.

Leases in Ohio are not standard, and each landlord's may be different. During the **lease review**, SLS staff goes through the lease line-by-line, explains your student's rights and responsibilities, points out unenforceable clauses, and answers students' questions.



Remember! with the student's permission, parents can join the appointment





Employment

Many students, especially early in their college career, will consider taking an unpaid internship to gain experience. But, according to the law, students acting as an employee of the business, rather than interning for educational purposes, should be paid. Students should not pay to work for a company, or for an internship experience. SLS lawyers advise students about potential employment and internship opportunities, wage issues, employment contracts, and more.



Students encounter various legal issues throughout college. **Student Legal Services can help.** Here are just a few other areas of law we cover. Remember, if your child is not sure whether SLS handles an issue, please email or call us!

Scams & Identity Theft

College students are easy targets for scammers. Students must give out personal information for many legitimate reasons, so they may be less likely to spot someone trying to scam them by asking for personal info. SLS lawyers help students determine whether a situation is a scam, and advise students if they are afraid they've already been scammed.



Insurance

Let's face it, insurance (health, renters, auto) can be confusing for even the most seasoned among us. For a student dealing with insurance on their own for the first time, it's downright overwhelming. SLS lawyers review insurance policies and claims, file appeals for denial of coverage, and more.

Victims of Crime

Crime can happen anywhere, and unfortunately, it does happen to college students. **SLS is here to help.** SLS lawyers assist students who have been the victim of crimes, including theft, assault, sexual violence, harassment, and stalking. SLS assists students through the criminal filing process and with protection orders. SLS is a confidential resource with no reporting requirements to Ohio State.

stay connected
studentlegal.osu.edu/parents



STUDENT **LEGAL** SERVICES



Supporting Student Success
high quality, affordable legal advice,
representation, education, and resources