Beginning college is a new and exciting time that can often be overwhelming. Parents, you may remember a feeling of invincibility when you began this period in your life; your student probably feels the same way.

Although students are legally adults, they may not be aware of their legal rights and responsibilities. It is important for parents to realize that students may need legal assistance through no fault of their own.

**Student Legal Services** (SLS) is here to assist in preventing and resolving legal problems that disrupt student’s lives and to educate them about their rights and responsibilities in an increasingly complex world. Our primary goal is to provide legal advice and counseling to students whose legal problems are affecting their pursuit of their education at Ball State. We attempt to accomplish this by helping students recognize, identify, and solve legal problems that threaten to disrupt their lives. This allows them to concentrate on school and make the most of their educational opportunities.

The SLS attorney is an experienced professional who provides high quality advice and maintains a confidential relationship with the student clients. It is important for parents to understand that their student has a confidential relationship with SLS’s lawyer. This means that the lawyer is absolutely prohibited from discussing what transpires between him or her with anyone. In fact, the lawyer cannot even disclose that a particular student is a client. This confidentiality can be waived, allowing the lawyer to discuss the matter with third parties, but only after a full discussion with the student client, and obtaining the client’s permission.
Our services are provided free of charge to currently enrolled Ball State students. We will meet with the student to discuss their needs, and if the seriousness or complexity of a student’s legal problem requires representation by a private attorney, we will aid the student in making an informed selection of a lawyer.

**SERVICES**

**Preventative Education:** We inform students of their legal rights so that they will be better equipped to avoid legal problems. The attorney makes frequent presentations in residence halls, classes, and other student-oriented arenas to address timely issues such as housing, consumer concerns, and local ordinances and state laws regarding parties and alcohol consumption.

**Classroom assistance:** Students are free to come in to discuss class projects with the attorney and to receive advice about their assignment when the project or assignment involves a legal issue or question.

**Brochures:** SLS has prepared a number of educational brochures on important legal issues including landlord/tenant disputes, employees’ rights, consumer problems, criminal law, and the responsible use of alcohol. These are available in the SLS office.

**Contract Review:** In order to avoid legal difficulties, students are encouraged to consult SLS before entering into important legal transactions such as renting an apartment, buying a used car, and purchasing goods or services on contract. The SLS attorney can review any such contract or document before it is signed, explain the meaning of its provision, and advise of any areas of concern.

**Landlord–Tenant Issues**
- Reviewing leases (preferably before signing)
- Assisting with problems that arise during tenancy
- Documenting conditions to protect a tenant’s interest
- Recovering security deposits
- Communicating with appropriate authorities

**Consumer Problems**
- Identity theft
- Consumer debt
- Contract disputes
- Auto accidents
- Auto purchase and repair
- Property loss
- Defective products and/or services

**Other Legal Concerns**
- Accidents resulting in bodily injury and/or property damage
- Employment issues
- Family law
- Criminal matters
- Domestic abuse
- Power of attorney for traveling abroad