

## What is Student Legal Services?

Established in 1979, Student Legal Services has four full-time, licensed attorneys to provide free legal services to enrolled UCF students.

### We assist students with:

- ◆ Most criminal matters
- ◆ Traffic tickets
- ◆ Simple wills
- ◆ Landlord tenant matters
- ◆ Consumer issues
- ◆ Chapter 7 bankruptcies
- ◆ Uncontested divorces

Students are only responsible for paying any court costs, fees incidental to litigation, fines, penalties, or amounts of any judgments awarded against you.

We cannot represent students against other students, students against UCF or the State of Florida, students in their income producing activities, and students in university disciplinary matters.

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This brochure is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice.

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Like UCF Student Legal Services on Facebook! And follow us on Twitter @UCFStudentLegal!

## Useful Phone Numbers and URLs

Student Legal Services:  
sls.sdes.ucf.edu 407-823-2538

Off Campus Student Services:  
offcampus.housing.ucf.edu 407-823-6505

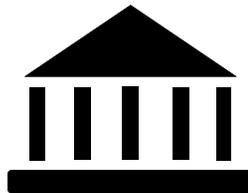
Integrity & Ethical Development:  
ied.sdes.ucf.edu 407-823-3477

Ombuds Office:  
ombuds.ucf.edu 407-823-6440

### Public Access Court Records (by county):

Orange County:  
myclerk.myorangeclerk.com

Seminole County:  
seminoleclerk.org/CivilDocket  
seminoleclerk.org/CriminalDocket



STUDENT  
LEGAL  
SERVICES

Ferrell Commons 142

407-823-2538

StuLegal@ucf.edu

## STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

# Why Would My Student Need a Lawyer?



Ferrell  
Commons 142

UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

Starting on a college career is an exciting time, for you and your student, and a time full of hope and optimism. It is also a time full of new experiences and responsibilities, and your student may need some help in navigating this unfamiliar territory.

Students may need legal assistance through no fault of their own. Consumer fraud, identity theft, and bad landlords can happen to anyone. Of course, there are ample opportunities for problems relating to the students' behavior or those in the community.

Campus life brings with it numerous situations that can give rise to legal hassles – traffic tickets, underage alcohol use, and even various misdemeanor criminal charges.

Such matters can be overwhelming to a student, and on-campus legal advice and representation can help keep an academic career from being derailed.

### **Prevention**

The UCF Student Legal Service provides a broad range of services to students. Preventive education is an active goal of the office. Our web site carries an array of legal information.

- We publish numerous brochures dedicated to legal issues pertinent to student life. Available on our website at: <http://sls.sdes.ucf.edu/>.
- We post timely, relevant information on social media (Facebook, Twitter).
- The attorneys make frequent presentations to serve the student population.

### **Counseling**

Legal counseling is another service the office provides. We encourage students to visit the office with their questions and concerns. This can help educate them as to their legal rights and responsibilities, and eliminate much of the guesswork of life on campus and in the community.

Our role as legal counselors is intended to improve the comfort level of students on this campus so they can better keep their lives focused on their educational goals. Parents should feel free to direct their students to the office for legal advice.

### **In Court Representation**

The office provides in-court representation for students in the areas of traffic, most criminal matters, and civil matters, including landlord tenant, as deemed appropriate. This protects students from being at an unfair disadvantage in the court system, as well as saving them valuable time and money.

### **Cost Containment**

The average working resident of Orlando can find it difficult to afford legal representation when it's needed. The UCF student population would face insurmountable financial obstacles when seeking legal assistance without the Student Legal Service office.

The minimum hourly rate charged by local attorneys hovers around \$200. Representation in traffic court can run up to \$200 for defense on a simple moving violation to \$2,000 on a DUI that settles without the need for a trial.

**Between July 2012-June 2013, for each case that UCF's Student Legal Services opened, we saved or recovered over \$80 on average for students! And that does not include saved legal fees!**

In the area where students regularly need the most help – landlord-tenant cases – the cost of a private lawyer would be prohibitive. Representing residential tenants is simply not cost-effective for private attorneys, and students would be forced to represent themselves when in a dispute with their landlords, and would consistently be at a distinct disadvantage.

### **Your Role as a Parent**

Your primary role is to guide your student to our service. It is important for parents to understand that their students have a confidential relationship with their lawyers. This means that a lawyer is absolutely prohibited from discussing what transpires between them with anyone. In fact, the lawyers 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 such a waiver in writing.

Parents cannot schedule appointments for their student. The student must fill out the intake sheet online or in the office, and take the initiative of actually scheduling the appointment. The name of a student who uses the office is not disclosed to the University of Central Florida.

University of Central Florida Student Legal Services is provided at no charge to students who have paid their Activity and Service Fee, which is assessed automatically at registration.

