Services

• Student Legal Services (SLS) provides confidential and professional legal assistance to students on a wide range of issues. SLS is staffed by a team of licensed attorneys, paralegals, law clerks, interns and office assistants to assist students with understanding and addressing their legal concerns.

• Notary service is available to current students, staff and faculty. If you need a document notarized, call us for walk-in times. You will need to come prepared with your documents complete and a government issued photo ID.

• SLS can develop workshops and class presentations on legal issues for student groups or PSU classes. Contact us if interested.

• SLS hosts an informational bankruptcy clinic every term. Please call our office and schedule an appointment if you are interested in attending. Spaces are limited.

• SLS offers walk-in hours for consumer, landlord tenant, small claims, traffic and wage and hour issues. Call or check our website for hours as they change each term.

Help is available on a wide range of legal issues including:

• Auto and bicycle accidents
• Bankruptcy
• Consumer (debtor/creditor, ID theft, reviewing contracts, etc.)
• Criminal law (Expungment, DUII, Misdemeanors)
• Employment (discrimination, harassment, unemployment, wage claims, etc.)
• Family (divorce, custody, child support, parenting time, mediation, etc.)
• Landlord-Tenant
• Personal injury
• Restraining orders under the Family Abuse Prevention Act
• Small Claims
• Traffic citations
• Immigration

Students are encouraged to utilize the resources offered by SLS. In cases where SLS cannot offer direct assistance, we can make referrals or suggest alternatives.

SLS does not accept cases involving: the organization or incorporation of business enterprises; patent law; will/estate planning or cases that are beyond the scope of the resources or expertise available to the office.
Who Can We Help?
All Portland State University students who are paying student fees and currently enrolled for 4 or more undergraduate credits or 3 or more graduate credits at PSU are eligible.

Who Can't We Help?
SLS cannot provide legal assistance or advice in the following cases**:
- Student vs. Student
- Student vs. PSU administration
- Student vs. PSU faculty or staff
- PSU Staff Members taking classes under their benefits package
- PCC Co-enrolled students not paying PSU student fee
- Students not registered for the current term
- Students with issues in another state (we only practice law in Oregon)

Do not hesitate to contact our office to determine your eligibility for services or see if we can provide an appropriate referral. In order to serve our clients effectively and efficiently, we only provide legal advice in person. We cannot give advice over the telephone, via e-mail or in matters where we have not accepted representation.

Accessing Our Services
Consultations may be available by appointment or during walk-in hours. Depending on your issue, your initial consultation may be with a paralegal, law clerk, or an attorney; all matters are supervised by attorneys licensed in Oregon.

Walk-in Issues:
- Landlord Tenant
- Consumer (includes debtor/creditor)
- Wage & Hour Claims
- Small Claims
- Traffic Violations

Appointment Issues:
- Family law
- Employment
- Criminal
- Immigration
- Personal injury
- Bankruptcy

Walk-in hours are posted on our bulletin boards and online each term. We are able to accommodate up to 3 students daily on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or visit our office if your issue requires a scheduled appointment.

SLS has limited resources and a small staff to serve a large number of students. Our caseload varies throughout the year; please note that there may be a wait for an initial consultation or appointment. We cannot schedule same day consultations except in extreme cases involving domestic violence or imminent risk of bodily harm.

Your 1st Appointment
When you come for your first appointment, be prepared to give factual information relating to your legal situation. You may need to provide dates, names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other essential information. Please make a list of your questions and concerns ahead of time. Bring all relevant documents and photo ID with you.

Examples of relevant documents include:
- Landlord-Tenant: your lease or rental contract which is necessary for analyzing any aspect of your tenancy
- Traffic: citation/ticket, court documents, any documents from a towing agency (if towed)
- Employment: bring your employee handbook, pay stubs and any written notes or correspondence.
- Child Support: bring any existing support order information.
- Debt/Credit: Credit card/bank statements, correspondence, court documents

Scope of Services
Action taken by SLS on your behalf depends upon the circumstances of your situation. In some cases, your problem may be settled with an explanation of your rights and responsibilities. In others, we may write a letter or make a telephone call on your behalf. If necessary, we may assist you with the preparation of legal documents or, in limited cases, with representation in court.

When your issue requires legal representation beyond the scope of our resources at SLS, we may be able to provide referrals to private attorneys or appropriate agencies.

Cost
For most cases, SLS provides free legal services to eligible fee paying students. Litigation fees may be required for some matters. Clients, however, are responsible for paying all costs associated with their matter, including court costs, filing fees, records requests, expert costs, and any other charges associated with their matter.

**Please visit our website for a nonexclusive list of factors we consider when deciding whether a matter is appropriate for our services.