



**Student Legal
Services**

A&M-COMMERCE

PARENT HANDBOOK

RAYBURN STUDENT CENTER, SUITE 239

903.886.5817

STUDENTLEGAL@TAMUC.EDU

Dear Texas A&M-Commerce Parents,

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your student is about to begin their journey at Texas A&M-Commerce! During this exciting time, it is our pleasure to inform you about Student Legal Services and the multitude of legal services offered free of charge to your student.

ABOUT US

Since 1991, Student Legal Services has established a long and proud tradition of providing FREE legal services and awareness of the law to the students of A&M-Commerce.

Student Legal Services offers a wide variety of legal guidance. Our attorney provides consultation, advice and outreach to A&M-Commerce students. Student Legal Services may write letters, draft legal documents or otherwise attempt to resolve legal problems. While general advice may be available, Student Legal Services does not represent students in criminal matters (including traffic tickets).

Student Legal Services is available for in-person and virtual appointments.



FAQs

Are there any legal issues that Student Legal Services won't be able to handle?

Yes, unfortunately. While we try our best to support the needs of our students, Student Legal Services cannot

- assist a student who has a legal dispute against another A&M- Commerce student.
- assist a student who has a legal dispute against A&M-Commerce or The Texas A&M University System.
- assist a student who has a legal dispute against an A&M-Commerce student group.
- represent students in court.

What services does Student Legal Services offer?

This office handles many different types of civil cases, especially landlord/tenant matters and consumer complaints. There is also a notary available to students free of charge.

Will I be charged for any legal services I receive?

No, there is no charge from this office. If there are litigation costs associated with your case you will be asked to pay them.

Will Student Legal Services help me fight a traffic ticket?

While Student Legal Services cannot represent students in criminal matters (including traffic tickets), students are encouraged to visit our resources page for general legal advice.

What should I bring to my appointment?

Any documents you have relating to your issue will be helpful. If you are not able to find certain documents or were not given certain documents, please notify the attorney during your consultation.

Who is eligible to use this service?

Student Legal Services provides counsel and guidance to currently enrolled students who pay student service fees. For these students, there is NO additional cost for appointments or consultations. Students are eligible to receive legal advice and assistance concerning a variety of student needs and topics.

Confidentiality

An attorney is sworn to preserve the confidence of a client. This rule applies equally to those persons that work with the attorney. Information concerning your case or contents of your file will never be released to third parties without your written authorization. There are no exceptions without a court order. You should feel free to discuss openly, honestly, and candidly on all aspects of your problem which you feel may have bearing on the outcomes.

MEET OUR TEAM



Jay Garrett, J.D.

Attorney

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Administrative Coordinator

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OUR MISSION

Student Legal Services provides A&M-Commerce students with FREE legal advice, assistance, consultation and education. Our goals are to enable students to focus on their education and stay in school despite any number of legal obstacles. The services of this office are 100% FREE to enrolled students.



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WHAT WE DO

We inform. We innovate. We inspire.

At A&M-Commerce, we are dedicated to improving the lives of those around us. Student Legal Services provides a variety of consultations and guidance in the following areas:



Free legal advice on these topics:

- Security Deposit
- Debt Collection
- Unpaid Wages
- Dispute Resolution
- Cellular Phone Billing
- Discrimination
- Divorce (no children, no property)
- Domestic Violence
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Subletting/Evictions
- Immigration
- Wrongful Termination
- Lemon Law
- Towing Problems
- Auto Accidents
- Deceptive Trade Practices
- Injuries
- Sexual Harassment
- Consumer Complaints
- Name and Gender Marker Changes
- Expunctions

Student Legal Services offers free consultations and referral information to current A&M-Commerce students.

This list represents a sampling of the legal services available. If students require help that Student Legal Services cannot provide we refer them to the State Bar referral network.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

General Power of Attorney

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

Healthcare Power of Attorney

A Healthcare Power of Attorney allows you to make medical decisions for your student if your student is unable to do so.

Mental Health Power of Attorney

A Mental Health Power of Attorney allows you to make decisions involving your student's mental health if your student is unable to do so.

HIPAA Release

A HIPAA Release authorizes medical providers to release medical information about your student to you.

Living Will

A living will documents the student's wishes regarding end of life choices, including life sustaining treatment and organ donation.



SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Get FREE legal advice

Student Legal Services is required to verify certain information prior to assisting students. In order to verify this information, students are required to complete our online intake form.

The scheduling process is confidential. We offer consultations in two formats: in-person and online via video web conferencing. Students interested in meeting with an attorney should contact our office at 903.886.5817 or email StudentLegal@tamuc.edu to schedule an appointment.

Digital Paperwork

When completing the online intake form, you will be asked to upload any documentation regarding your specific case. Please be sure to upload any documentation relating to the issue (lease agreement, demand letters, citations, court summons etc.) If you have trouble accessing or uploading your documentation, please contact us at Studentlegal@tamuc.edu.



COLLEGE HAPPENS. WE CAN HELP!

Underage Drinking

The University of A&M-Commerce Police and The Commerce Police Department can encounter TAMUC Students, and each officer has the ability to charge students with unlawful behavior. This includes underage drinking.

Traffic Tickets

Students may receive traffic tickets on or off campus. SLS can assist your student by advising of the necessary procedures to handle the ticket.

Expungments

Student Legal Services regularly assists with the expungement of court records. Even if a record has been sealed it may still be accessed by graduate programs and other career paths through background checks.

Student Conduct

While SLS cannot represent students in Student Conduct hearings, Student Conduct regularly refers students to SLS for legal advice and consultation for minor dispute resolutions, etc.

2023

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