

Student Conduct
A Unit of the Dean of Students Office
Illinois State University

FAQs for Parents

Student Conduct recognizes that parents are a critical factor in the success of students and works diligently to make parents a part of the discussion. The Student Conduct Office must also balance this with privacy expectations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) and the recognition that students, as young adults, must assume more responsibility for their choices.

Whenever possible Student Conduct encourages parents to discuss situations with students prior to contacting the Student Conduct Office. In most instances Student Conduct cannot discuss student issues related to disciplinary situations and conflicts without the explicit written consent of the student.

Please know the Student Conduct Office staff does not need consent from students to *receive information from* parents that is critical to the success of their student. Any information that would assist us in providing support to a student is always welcomed.

Q: I just received a letter that my student is facing disciplinary action with the University. How can I find out what is happening?

It makes the most sense to start with your student and to ask them. Our policy is to communicate directly with students on all conduct matters, except in cases where a Parental Notification Letter has been mailed to the parent/guardian. Student Conduct will normally only share specific case information when a student has signed a privacy waiver. Even in these instances, Student Conduct will continue to communicate directly with the student while also providing information to the parent(s). Students are always expected to represent themselves in the conduct process.

Q: My student told me they are involved in the student conduct process, what can I do?

As a member of the ISU community, each student is expected to manage their own student conduct matters with the University. Parents can provide important moral support to their students and can assist them in understanding both the conduct process and the expectations of the University.

Q: My student is scheduled to appear at a Case Management Conference or Formal Hearing. Can I attend?

Parents may attend any meeting with a student as an advisor with a signed FERPA Waiver from their student. An advisor's role is non-participatory.

Q: My student is concerned about getting removed from the University. Should I hire or consult with an attorney?

Decisions as to whether to consult legal counsel are personal ones, to be based on whatever factors a parent or guardian finds to be compelling. An attorney may attend meetings as an advisor, with a signed FERPA waiver from the responding student. An advisor's role is non-participatory. When choosing to consult with an attorney, you do so at your own expense.

Q: My student is also in trouble with the courts. Can the campus proceedings be delayed until the conclusion of the criminal process?

Student Conduct is obligated to move forward with all disciplinary matters as soon as it has collected sufficient information to do so. The University is not required to defer to the timeline of the criminal courts and will not typically grant requests made on this basis. Please remember that the University is not attempting to determine if a student committed a crime, only to determine whether ISU's *Code of Student Conduct* has been violated. We also understand how stressful this may be for a student, and we can discuss resources available during our meeting.

Q: The police officer/staff member said that my student wouldn't get in trouble. Why is Student Conduct pursuing this incident?

Many students indicate staff have assured them that they will not get in trouble. The fact is only Student Conduct has the authority to determine if a violation of University regulations may exist, and therefore whether to move forward in addressing the incident(s).

Q: My student is being held accountable by the University for an incident that took place off campus. How can the University do this?

Students at ISU are part of various communities that extend outside the physical limits of campus property. Through the *Code* ISU has established the jurisdiction to address off-campus behaviors. Such incidents/behaviors are typically those including: theft, vandalism, physical violence, sexual misconduct, alcohol, drugs, and/or weapons. The Vice President for Student Affairs (or a designee) has the final say if something is within the University's jurisdiction.

Q: My student has been harmed by the actions of another student. What are their rights?

Rights for aggrieved parties can be found in the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

**Are there other questions that you would like to see answered here?
If so, please send us an e-mail (StudentConduct@IllinoisState.edu).**

Please know, those of us responsible for the student conduct process at ISU take our responsibilities seriously and are here to ensure a fair and unbiased process for all students. The University is committed to a timely process that considers the welfare of all our community members.

Should you find yourself in need of additional information on the student conduct process, please contact us at (309) 438-8621.