## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Legal Responsibilities and the Ohio/U.S. Legal System

Kate E. Ryan August 16, 2007

### Tenant/Landlord Rights And

• What are my rights as a tenant?

What are my obligations as a tenant?

What are my rights as a landlord?

### Tenant/Landlord Rights And Obligations

- What are my obligations as a landlord?
- What is a rental agreement?
- How do I get back my security deposit?
- Who owns what?
- Do I need an attorney?

### Tenants Have Security Deposit Rights

- I have a good reason to believe my landlord may improperly withhold my security deposit at the end of my lease.
   Can I wait to pay my last month's rent and then pay up if my landlord comes through with the security deposit?
- Does the law require my landlord to give back my security deposit?

### Tenants Have Security Deposit Rights cont.

- How can I improve my chances of getting back my security deposit?
- Is there anything else I can do to make sure I get my deposit back?
- What if I do all that and the landlord still sends me an itemized list of damages I never caused?

### Your Rights If Questioned, Stopped Or Arrested By The Police

- What are my rights . . .
  - If the police approach me and ask me questions?
  - If the police "stop" me and ask me questions?
  - If I am arrested?
  - When can I be arrested?
  - What are my rights if I am arrested?



### Your Rights If Questioned, Stopped Or Arrested By The Police cont.

- What are my rights . . .
  - If I am arrested, what will the police do?
  - In court?

 Do's and don'ts during arrests and custody.

### Police Must Give Miranda Warnings

- What are Miranda Warnings?
- Does a suspect have to be at the police station before being warned about Miranda rights?
- If a suspect makes a statement that is not in answer to a direct question by police, is that suspect entitled to Miranda warnings?

### Police Must Give Miranda Warnings

- What if a suspect gives up (or waives) the Miranda rights, not realizing what he or she is doing?
- If a suspect decides to start talking to police officers and then changes his or her mind, what must that suspect do or say in order to halt the interrogation?

### Driving A Vehicle In Ohio: Your Responsibility

- Driver's license.
- Insurance.
- Obey traffic laws.
  - Speed.
  - Stop signals.
  - Clear distance.

- Abide by Ohio law.
  - No driving under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or prescription medication.
  - Children must be secured by safety belts.

### Auto Accidents: Do You Know Your Legal Responsibilities?

- What do Ohio's motor vehicle laws require of me if I am involved in an auto accident?
- What if the police do not arrive at the scene of the accident?
- Are there other things I should know about auto accident procedures?

### Know Penalties For Operating A Vehicle Under The Influence

- I have heard that I can be charged with DUI even if I am sitting in my driveway listening to the radio with the keys in the ignition, whether or not the car is running.
- What can happen to me if I am convicted of an OVI?
- Are there immigration-related consequences?
- What financial consequences arise because of a DUI conviction?

#### **Ohio Car Insurance Laws**

 Ohio auto insurance laws require motorists to maintain a liability insurance policy. Liability insurance for Bodily Injury (BI) pays for injury or death to others when the driver of your car is at fault in an accident.

- The minimum liability insurance required by Ohio car insurance law is:
  - Bodily injury: \$12,500
    per person; \$25,000
    per accident.
  - Property damage:\$7,500 per accident.

#### **Ohio Car Insurance Laws**

- The listed amounts shown above are the required bare minimums. You'd need a lot more insurance to pay for a bad crash. The Ohio Insurance Department suggests an amount of:
  - Bodily Injury: \$100,000 per person/\$300,000 per accident.
  - Property Damage: \$100,000.
  - Medical Payment: \$5,000.

#### **Ohio Car Insurance Laws**

 Medical Payment covers medical bills for you and your passengers resulting from an accident or when you or family members are pedestrians and are hit by a car. When you buy liability insurance, Ohio car insurance companies may offer you uninsured/under-insured motorists (UM) coverage. UM coverage also pays for injuries to you and your passengers when the other driver did not have enough insurance to pay for your injuries. You cannot buy more coverage for UM than you have for liability. Ohio insurance law does not allow you to protect yourself better than you protect others.

# Know Which Contracts Can Be Cancelled Within Three-Day Period

- Does the law give me a certain amount of time to cancel any contract I might make?
- I signed up for a health club a couple of weeks ago. I did not know about my right to cancel.
   Can I still get out of the contract?
- What if I want to return a shirt that does not fit?
  Can a retail store refuse to accept the shirt?
- What if the store has a no-return policy, but there is a defect in the item I bought?

### Stores Must Honor Shelf Prices

- I was at a store buying a DVD player when the clerk tried to charge me \$375 for one that the shelf price said was only \$250. I would not pay the higher price and the store clerk would not sell it to me at the lower price because it scanned at \$375. Is that legal?
- Is there anything I can do about getting the reduced price?
- What should I do in the future to make sure I am charged the correct price?

#### **Guard Against Identity Theft**



- How can I protect myself from identity theft?
- What should I do if I become a victim of identity theft?
- If I find out who stole my identity, can I take private legal action against that person to recover what I have lost?
- Are there any new laws on the horizon that may help ease this problem?

#### Healthcare

- My child is ill but I am too poor to pay for healthcare services. What can I do?
- I am ill. Although I work, I do not have healthcare and my income is meager. I can not afford healthcare. What can I do?
- What is HCAP?
- Should I have healthcare insurance

#### Why Hire A Lawyer?

- Why should I hire a lawyer when I can get the same or similar advice, cheaper, from a non-lawyer?
- What else should I consider before consulting a lawyer instead of a nonlawyer?
- How do I get good advice when my problem is more than a legal problem?

#### **Ohio's Courts**

- What courts have jurisdiction in Ohio?
  - State courts or federal courts.
  - State legal system.
- Municipal courts.
- Mayor's court.
- Common Pleas Court.



- What is probate court?
- What is a domestic relations court?
- What is a juvenile court?
- What are appeals courts?
- What is the role of the Supreme Court of Ohio?

The Health of Oteles

#### **Ohio's Courts**

- What is the role of the Supreme Court of Ohio?
- The United States courts?
- District Courts?
- What is the function of the U.S. courts of appeals?
- What is the role of the United States Supreme Court?

### Murphy's Law

# If Anything Can Go Wrong, It Will.

