

Community Rights & Responsibilities at Illinois State University

DISCIPLINARY GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Community Rights and Responsibilities recognizes that parents are a critical factor in the success of students, and works diligently to make parents a part of the discussion. CR&R must also balance this with privacy allowances made for students under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the recognition that students, as young adults, must assume more responsibility for their own academic and lifestyle matters.

Whenever possible, CR&R encourages parents to discuss situations with students prior to contacting CR&R. In most cases, CR&R cannot discuss student issues related to disciplinary situations, conflicts, and grievances without explicit written consent of the student.

One other important item to know is that CR&R staff do not need consent from students to receive information from parents about items critical to the success of their student. Any information that would assist us in providing support to students is always welcome.

For your convenience, here are answers to the most frequently asked questions from parents.

Q: I just received a letter telling me that my son/daughter is facing University disciplinary action. How can I find out what is happening?

It makes the most sense to start with your son/daughter and to ask him/her. Our policy is to communicate directly with students on all disciplinary matters, except in cases where a Parental Notification Form has been mailed to the parent/guardian. CR&R will normally only share specific case information when a student has signed a privacy waiver. Even in these instances, CR&R will continue to communicate directly with the student while also providing information to the parent(s). Students are expected to represent themselves in the disciplinary process at all times.

Q: My son/daughter just told me that s/he is involved in the disciplinary process. What can I do?

The student disciplinary process at Illinois State University does not provide for the involvement of the parent or guardian of a student. As a member of the Illinois State University community, each student is expected to manage his/her own disciplinary matters with the University. Parents can provide important moral support to their

son/daughter and can assist the student in understanding both the disciplinary process and the expectations of the University.

Q: My son/daughter is scheduled to appear at a hearing. Can I attend?

The only people that may serve as advisory/support people at a hearing are people who are considered students, faculty, and staff at Illinois State University. Parents may not attend the hearing unless they meet this standard, but may wait in the **CR&R** reception area. The only non-community members permitted to attend hearings are attorneys, and then only in cases where concurrent criminal charges exist.

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

Decisions as to whether or not to consult legal counsel are personal ones, to be based on whatever factors a parent or guardian finds to be compelling. However, please understand that attorneys are also prohibited from participating in the student disciplinary process, and are not entitled to attend meetings or hearings with a student. The sole exception to this is in cases where concurrent criminal charges exist, and even in those cases the attorney may only attend meetings and hearings; he or she may not participate in any fashion, nor is the attorney allowed to represent the student.

If you do choose to consult with an attorney, you may wish to refer the attorney FAQ section below. When choosing to consult with an attorney, you do so at your own expense.

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

CR&R is obliged 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 or not the Illinois State University Code of Student Conduct has been violated.

Q: The police officer/staff member said that my son/daughter wouldn't get in trouble. Why is **CR&R pursuing this incident?**

Many students allege that staff have assured them that they will not get in trouble. The fact is that only **CR&R** has the authority to determine whether or not a violation of University regulations may exist, and therefore whether or not to pursue the incident.

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

The University reserves the right to assert jurisdiction for any incidents that take place off campus that are in the interests of the University and/or community to pursue. Such incidents are typically those including theft, vandalism, physical violence, sexual misconduct, drugs, and/or weapons. The Vice President of Student Affairs maintains final authority over the extension of off campus jurisdiction.

Q: My son/daughter has been the victim of an offense by another student. What are his/her rights?

Rights for aggrieved parties can be found [here](#).

Q: I am concerned about sending my son/daughter away to school. Is Illinois State University a safe campus?

Illinois State University is a community of over 20,000 students, located in an urban setting of over 100,000 people. As such, Illinois State faces the same issues of any comparably sized community. Illinois State is, relatively speaking, strict about the enforcement of behavioral standards within our community. **CR&R** is committed to the education and development of its students, but does realize that some students may need to be removed from the community because of the potential threat they present to themselves and/or others, because of the seriousness of their actions, and/or because of their inability to learn from previous mistakes. **CR&R** maintains close and collaborative relationships with both the Illinois State University Police Department and the Town of Normal Police Department. For information on crime statistics, please visit the individual police agency web sites.

Are there other questions that you would like to see answered here? If so, please send us an e-mail.

A Final Note

Those of us responsible for the student disciplinary process at Illinois State University take our responsibilities seriously, and are here to insure a fair and unbiased process for all students. It is recognized that cases which also involve criminal and/or civil charges can be exceptionally difficult for students. None the less, the University is also committed to a timely process that considers the welfare of all twenty thousand of our community members, not just one or two people.

Should you find yourself in need of additional information on the student disciplinary process, please review the rest of this web site or contact us at (309) 438-8621.