



SEOLS

southeastern ohio legal services

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04/12/2021

Dr. Patricia Mares
Mares Cares Counseling, LLC
628 Commanche Rd.
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To Whom It May Concern:

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS) is a nonprofit law firm that represents low-income individuals and families with civil legal problems across 30 Ohio counties. In addition to helping our clients prevent loss of housing, maintain their public benefits, fight unfair consumer practices, and helping families escape domestic violence situations, SEOLS also provides representation for families with children who need additional help in school. SEOLS recently received a grant from the Foundation for Appalachia Ohio to provide representation to students whose trauma backgrounds manifest in ways that cause difficulty for them in school (e.g. school avoidance, fighting, acting out...etc.). In some cases, these students may have a mental health disorder that requires an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to help the student access his or her education. In other cases, the student's trauma may be manifesting in such a way that is leading him or her to being disciplined in school. SEOLS can help!

We would love to work with you to help your low-income patients navigate the special education system and get the supports they need in school. If a student is experiencing a lack of educational progress, is in need of additional services at school such as physical or occupational therapy, or if the student is frequently being removed from school, suspended, or expelled, he or she may need an attorney to help them advocate for the help they need. SEOLS can represent families with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty level in 30 Ohio counties.

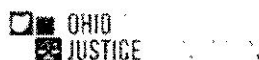
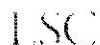
We understand that in your practice you may serve families and children who have experienced trauma and/or are in need of some of the legal services described above. SEOLS advocates have been trained in trauma-informed practices and are equipped to work with families in crisis. We are available to speak to you or other caseworkers about the work we do and how to identify when a family may need legal support. If you are interested in learning more about our organization or if you are currently working with a family who could use our help, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Kathleen C. McGarvey

Staff Attorneys
Michael Gibbons-Camp
Baylee Butler
Courtenay Balvin
Sierra Cooper
Shanna Mustard
Lucas McKaig

Managing Attorney
Joshua M. Goodwin



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SEOLS
Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

Education Rights & Help in School



What Rights Does My Child Have?

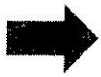
- The right to access education—this includes special protections for homeless students, such as busing to their original school and quicker enrollment processes at new schools. It also requires schools to provide translation services if your child does not understand or cannot hear spoken English.
- The right to special education services, if they are eligible. A school has an obligation to identify children that may be eligible for special education services and to evaluate to determine if a child has an educational disability.
- A child with an educational disability cannot be removed from school for more than 10 days if the reason for the removal is a manifestation of his or her disability.
- A child who is being recommended for an out-of-school suspension or an expulsion has the right to be properly notified of the reason for the removal *and* the right to present a defense at a hearing in front of the school administrators.
- Any child who has been given an out-of-school suspension or expulsion has the right to appeal his or her removal from school. They also have a right to be represented by an attorney during this process.



How Do I Know If My Child Needs Help?

- Not reading at or near grade level.
- Frequent phone calls from school due to misbehavior.
- Teacher or administrator concerns about academic performance.
- Missing a lot of school.
- Failing all or most subjects.
- Being held back a grade or more.
- In need of mental health services and no one will help.
- Repeatedly failing yearly achievement tests.
- Unable to access needed healthcare services.
- Receiving multiple suspensions.
- Being recommended for an expulsion.

If you believe your rights are being violated, or if your school is not helping you, please contact Southeastern Ohio Legal Services.



Who is Southeastern Ohio Legal Services?

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS) provides access to legal help so people can protect their livelihoods, their health, their homes and their families regardless of income. SEOLS provides legal assistance for people who cannot afford an attorney through representation and easy-to-understand information about your legal rights. This includes information about how to get into court, what to do when in court or what to do when dealing with government agencies. SEOLS also provides easy-to-complete legal forms.

**The information on this flyer is not legal advice.
If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS.**

How To Contact SEOLS:

Athens Office **740.594.3558**
 800.686.3669

Serving Gallia, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, Vinton, and Washington Counties

Chillicothe Office **740.773.0012**
 800.686.3668

Serving Fairfield, Fayette, Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway, Pike, and Ross Counties

Newark Office **740.345.0850**
 888.831.9412

Serving Knox, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry Counties

New Philadelphia Office **330.339.3998**
 800.686.3670

Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Holmes, and Tuscarawas Counties

Portsmouth Office **740.354.7563**
 800.837.2508

Serving Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties

Steubenville Office **740.283.4781**
 800.837.4781

Serving Belmont, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, and Monroe Counties

