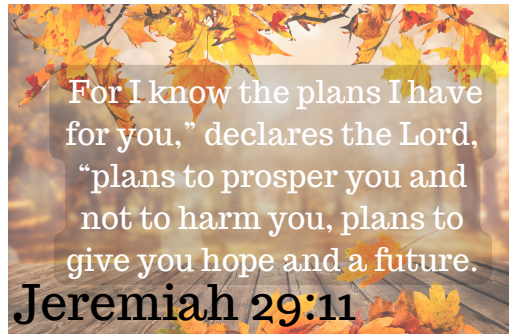




THE LEGAL ADVISOR

The official newsletter of Scranton Road Legal Clinic



I worry that my child may be falling behind in school. How can I help them succeed?

Written by Laura Lemire-Janson, Legal Extern

The first step is identifying the problem that prevents your child from learning. Perhaps there is a medical issue. Ask yourself: Does my child struggle to see the blackboard? They could need glasses. Are they anxious about going to school? Maybe there's an emotional issue. Is it hard for them to sit still and focus? They could have a problem paying attention.

Next, schedule an appointment with your child's pediatrician. The doctor can evaluate your child for physical, developmental, or behavioral problems. And talk to your child and their teacher(s) to see what may be getting in the way of learning.

Then, email or write a letter to your child's principal. In this email or letter, tell the principal about your concerns, the doctor's findings, and request an educational evaluation. An educational evaluation can assess your child's strengths, weaknesses, and pinpoint any learning disabilities. Be sure to make this request in writing, preferably by email. By making this request in writing, the date of your request for this educational evaluation is documented. The principal has 30 days to respond to your email offering a meeting time. This meeting must be at a time, during the school day, that is convenient to you. If the principal does not respond to your email in 30 days, please reach out to the Scranton Road Legal Clinic or your school district's parent mentor for help. Parent mentors provide information and support to families of children with disabilities. A list of Cuyahoga County parent mentors can be found here:

<https://www.escneo.org/ParentMentors-CuyahogaCounty.aspx>

The meeting that will be scheduled is an evaluation planning meeting. You, as the parent, must participate in this meeting as part of your child's school team. At this meeting, you, the principal, the school psychologist, and school staff that know your child will discuss your child's struggles. Together, you will decide whether or not to proceed with an educational evaluation. If the school team (this includes you as the parent) decides an educational evaluation is needed, the school staff will work with your child for the next 60 days to see if they have an educational disability. An educational disability can be difficulty in reading or math, ADHD, mental health challenges and emotional struggles, to name a few. If an educational disability is found, the school's special education teacher will write an individualized education plan and your child will start receiving extra help at school!

It's Time to Apply for Student Loan Forgiveness

The federal government has started accepting applications for student loan debt forgiveness! President Joe Biden has vowed to help decrease and/or eliminate student loan debt for millions of Americans.

To apply, go to StudentAid.org. You have until the end of December to apply, but the sooner the better, to allow time for processing. It is recommended that you apply before November 15, 2022 if you want it processed in this calendar year.

On the website, click the link that says "Start the Application," and you will be redirected to a page asking for some basic information and to sign a waiver.

Until Oct. 31, you can also apply for Public Service Loan Debt Forgiveness that may have previously been unavailable to you such as time during deferrals! You can also apply for consolidation of loans that you previously had not consolidated so that they qualify for PSLF. Just click on the PSLF Form link on StudentAid.org!

Legal Speak 101

Answer: A legal Answer is a defendant's response to a legal complaint. If you are named in a complaint (sued), it's best that you respond as soon as you are notified of it. In an Answer, you will either admit, deny, or deny for lack of information the allegations. It's the first filing by the defendant in a civil (not criminal) action. Sometimes if you need more time to file your Answer, the court will grant extra time by granting a Motion for Leave to Answer. You must Answer, usually within 28 days, or the court may rule against you and you may lose your legal rights.

UNUSUAL LAWS

Strange Laws Around the US - Idaho

- Musicians Cannot Loiter After Gigs.
- You May Not Share Your Dog's Kennel With Them.
- No Selling Chickens After Sundown Without Permission From the Sheriff.



**IN-PERSON FAMILY LAW ADVICE CLINIC/WORKSHOP CONTINUES IN 2022!
CONTACT US AT 216.861.5323 TO SIGN UP NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED.
Also, check out our self-study workshops on our website!**

Formed in 2012, Scranton Road Legal Clinic educates and empowers our neighbors to make educated and prudent legal decisions, while providing the holistic support for the spiritual, emotional and relational problems that often accompany legal concerns. We offer brief advice via our brief advice telephone line at 216.861.5323 or via our online intake form at www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal. Contact us today to discuss your legal need.