

RAULSTON & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Protecting What Matters Most

Legal Planning for College Students

to Keep Parents at Ease



Legal Planning for College Students



Sending a child off to college is an emotional rollercoaster for any parent. Amid the excitement and pride, there are concerns about their child's safety and well-being in an unfamiliar environment. One aspect often overlooked in the flurry of preparations is legal planning. Ensuring you have the necessary legal documents in order for your college-bound child can provide peace of mind and potentially avoid future complications.



Understanding Essential Legal Needs for College-Bound Kids

When your child turns 18, they are legally considered an adult, affecting in many ways your parental rights. Before your child leaves for college, consider securing the following important legal documents:

Wills

Though it might seem premature, having a will for your child ensures their wishes regarding their belongings and digital assets are respected. This document provides clear instructions and can prevent disputes.

FERPA Form

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form grants parents access to their child's educational records. Without it, universities are prohibited from sharing academic information with parents, even if they pay the tuition.

Powers of Attorney

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a document that allows someone to make decisions on behalf of another person. There are two types to consider for your college-bound child:

Healthcare Power of Attorney

This document appoints someone to make medical decisions on your child's behalf if they aren't able to do so.

Financial Power of Attorney

This document permits someone to handle financial matters such as banking and tuition payments if your child becomes unable to manage them.

Why Early Legal Preparation Is Indispensable

Start legal preparations early, ideally in the months leading up to college. The period from July to August is optimal, allowing proper time to ensure all documents are signed and in place before the academic year begins. Early preparation also avoids the last-minute rush and provides ample time to address unexpected issues.



Addressing Common Parental Concerns

Parents often worry about their children's autonomy and safety. Legal documents like POAs help balance independence and security. They provide a safety net, allowing swift action in emergencies without legal hurdles.



Step-by-Step Guide to Establishing Legal Documents

Navigating the legal maze can be daunting. These steps will empower you with the knowledge of the legal process.



1

Consult a Legal Expert

Start by consulting with a firm experienced in family and educational law, like Raulston & Associates, PLLC.

2

Gather Necessary Information

Prepare personal information and identify potential agents for POA.

3

Draft the Documents

Your legal advisor will draft the necessary documents tailored to your child's needs, providing you with the support and guidance you need.

4

Review and Sign

Make sure all documents are thoroughly reviewed and properly signed.

5

Store Safely

Keep copies of all documents in a safe yet accessible location.

The Long-Term Benefits of Early Legal Planning

Having these legal documents in place offers numerous long-term benefits:



Peace of Mind

Knowing you can act in emergencies reduces stress for both parents and children.



Smooth Handling of Medical and Financial Matters

Quick access to decision-making prevents delays in critical situations.



Ensuring Wishes Are Honored

By having a will for your child, you can safeguard their preferences, providing you with relief and comfort.

Case Studies

Consider the Johnson family's experience. When their daughter Emma faced a medical emergency during her first year, the healthcare POA allowed her parents to make immediate decisions about her treatment. Another case involved the Smith family, whose son needed urgent financial management assistance. The financial POA enabled his parents to manage his affairs seamlessly.



About Raulston & Associates, PLLC

Legal planning is a decisive step in preparing your child for college. Ensuring they have the necessary documents provides them a safety net while respecting their newfound independence. Don't wait until the last minute – start the process today so everything is in order before they head off to college. Contact us at Raulston & Associates, PLLC to get started.

If you found this information helpful, please share it with other families preparing for college. For more detailed guidance and to start legal planning, contact Raulston & Associates, PLLC. We're here to help ensure your child's college experience is exciting and secure.



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