

The Role of Advisors in the Student Conduct Hearing Process at The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University *Code of Student Conduct* states that a complainant and/or respondent may have an advisor present throughout the disciplinary process. Because this is an educational process, students are expected to speak and to advocate for themselves, while advisors serve to support and counsel their student. Some important points about the role of the advisor include:

1. A student may have one (1) advisor present during the investigation and hearing process. The advisor is selected by the student and may be anyone who is not involved as a participant/witness in the case. While the Office of Student Conduct does not appoint an advisor automatically, the student may request advisor support from the Student Advocacy Office. The Student Advocacy Office can be reached at (614) 292-1111.
2. Students must complete the *Authorization to Release Information* form in order to allow an advisor to participate in the conduct process. This form can be found on the Student Conduct website.
3. The advisor may support or advise their student, but may not represent or speak for them. An advisor may whisper to or share written notes with their student during any part of the conduct process, (e.g. preliminary conference or hearing).
4. Attorneys are welcome to serve as advisors in our process, and are held to the same expectations as any other advisor. Accordingly, the student is responsible for communicating with the Student Conduct Office and performing other functions that may be generally performed by attorneys (e.g. requesting extensions of deadlines, submitting written documents, objecting to evidence, questioning witnesses, etc.).
5. We never want a student to be confused or surprised by any part of the Student Conduct process. A student may ask a procedural question at any time. If an advisor has a question about the process at any point prior to a hearing, we encourage the advisor to ask their question. We will always endeavor to include the student in this conversation, but also we understand that there may be minor procedural questions that can help an advisor to better understand our process. Should an advisor have a procedural question during a hearing, the advisor should prompt their student to either raise the procedural question, or request a brief recess to speak with their hearing officer.
6. We expect that all advisors will abide by these expectations. An advisor that fails to do so may be asked to leave a meeting or Student Conduct hearing.