

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

COURSE TITLE: Legal Aspects in Human Services

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 6323

PREREQUISITES: ENG121 (C or better) and ENG122

This is an entirely online class. You can watch the Canvas tutorial on the WilmU website. Go to [Canvas Tutorial](#)

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: You will need access to a high-speed computer equipped with internet access, a sound card, functional speakers, Microsoft PowerPoint (or a MS PowerPoint viewer, which you can download for free from the internet), video-playing software (i.e., Windows Media Player or RealPlayer). You can download plug-ins for Windows Media Player and RealPlayer from the following links: [Windows Media Player](#) and [RealPlayer](#).

You will find that Canvas is more easily enjoyed with Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox browsers.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines how the law impacts delivery of human services *directly* through the civil and criminal court system and *indirectly* through the laws and regulations that define the rules, responsibilities, and entitlements of clients receiving support services. Topics will include child welfare, guardianships, involuntary commitments, competence, and civil rights. Special attention will also be given to the varying ethical duties and professional values within the human services and legal professions, including HIPAA compliance, ethical communications with Judges, and Immigration issues in State courts that should be understood by social workers in order to competently assist a client.

II. COURSE RATIONALE:

While law school applications are down, social work-related occupations are increasing in demand. You may already know that social work teaches marketable skills that cut across traditional disciplines and professions. Social work, while personally rewarding, is difficult work. You will learn how to interpret policy, law, and regulations that may impact your client negatively or positively and you will learn the state court process and procedure. This course is not intended to teach you how to practice law, but this course will help you to understand how to best collaborate with attorneys, work in the best interests of your client with more confidence, pursue social justice and advocate for policy change.

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College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

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III. INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Students will explore the rights of disenfranchised segments of our population as well as their unmet needs and demonstrate an understanding of the various roles a human services specialist may play in addressing these needs

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

List common barriers to access and redress of rights among low-income and disenfranchised clients

Identify and list common legal need and rights of low-income and disenfranchised clients

Identify roles a human services professional may play in addressing a client's legal needs

Identify the requirements for becoming a social worker in the State of Delaware

Identify the Code of Ethics applicable to social workers

Identify the Code of Ethics applicable to legal professionals and how it may have an impact on non-legal professional

Identify the Judicial Code of Ethics and understand the definition of ex-parte communications and how it impacts the flow of information to the Court

Analyze a Case Study and Identify potential needs of the client

GOAL B: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the systems and contextual framework that provides the foundation for the application

GOAL C: Students will incorporate an understanding of the litigation process into their knowledge vault and demonstrate an understanding of the roles of the players in a litigation setting, what typically occurs in a civil and criminal proceeding and what clients can expect.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Identify the parties in criminal, civil or administrative hearing and their respective responsibilities

