



Purpose: Legal Advice Support Scheme for DITSU Members

Policy:

To outline the parameters in which DITSU facilitates the obtaining of legal advice, support and guidance by its members.

Any student who needs direct legal advice, can avail of the service in cases where:

- (i) The circumstances giving rise to the need for legal advice are serious and urgent (standard legal work that arises in a person's life (for example, Wills, property, transactions, swearing of affidavits or making statutory declarations) is not covered by this scheme); and
- (ii) They cannot themselves afford the costs of obtaining legal advice; and/or
- (iii) There is some tangible difficulty in their ability to avail of legal advice themselves which in the opinion of the DITSU Student Affairs Manager renders them eligible for this scheme.

Procedures:

The applicant must be registered as a student of the Dublin Institute of Technology at the time that the application is made.

The DITSU Student Affairs Manager will refer the student to an appropriate Solicitor and will contact the Solicitor in question giving them the name of student and contact details.

The availability and use of this service shall be at the discretion of the DITSU Student Affairs Manager. The creation and maintenance of this scheme does not create an automatic entitlement to any member to be able to avail of this scheme, save at the discretion of the DITSU Student Affairs Manager

All decisions regarding the use of this service may be appealed to the CEO of DITSU CLG.

DITSU will only cover the cost of one consultation with the Solicitor to the amount of €250 (incl of VAT) for a particular matter.

In no instance will cash be given to students to receive legal advice. All monies will be paid directly to the solicitor upon receipt of an invoice.

Approved by the Board of DIT Students' Union CLG on 13th September 2016

In no such instance will a student receive legal advice and assistance in excess of €500 in the lifetime of their studies within the DIT.

If the student wishes to seek further consultation or avail of the solicitor to represent them in any manner the student will be liable for all other associated costs.

The purpose of the legal advice and guidance service is not to support individuals over an ongoing basis but to help those seeking initial advice and guidance.

As a strict pre-condition to availing of this scheme, neither Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union Limited, nor any of its subsidiaries, unincorporated associated organs, staff, officers or members shall be liable for any act or omission on the part of the solicitor providing a student advice under this scheme. It shall be a matter for the student to fully and properly brief the solicitor and any deficiency in the performance or advice of the solicitor, whether perceived or actual, shall be a matter for the student to address directly with the appropriate regulatory body for the solicitor or with the solicitor's professional indemnity insurance provider.

The scope of the service will be reviewed on an annual basis and is dependant on financial resources.

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