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**→ ADULT**

**MIKE FOLEY,  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURTS  
2023 HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**



**MIKE FOLEY**

Montgomery County  
Clerk of Courts

*Moving Justice Forward* ▶▶▶



**TEACHER GUIDE.**



**WORDS FROM  
YOUR ELECTED  
OFFICIAL**

**DEAR GRADUATE,**

**AS YOUR MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS, IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I WISH YOU CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL AND IMPRESSIVE GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION THAT YOU SHOWED FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN A WAY THAT WILL HELP PREPARE YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE. YOU HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING UNIQUELY MARVELOUS. YOU ARE GRADUATING! YOU HAVE RISEN ABOVE AND YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED. I HOPE THE INFORMATION FROM OUR OFFICE WILL BE HELPFUL AS YOU START YOUR LIFE AS AN ADULT. SHOULD YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, OR FAMILY EVER NEED ASSISTANCE FROM OUR OFFICE, OUR HELP CENTER IS READY AND WILLING TO BE AT YOUR SERVICE. ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICES, I WISH YOU HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR UPCOMING GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. MAY YOUR LIFE BE KNOWN BY YOUR SUCCESSES, BOTH PAST AND YET TO COME.**

**WITH ALL THE BEST,  
MIKE FOLEY**

# NOW YOU'RE 18

When you turn 18 in Ohio, the state recognizes that you have all the rights and responsibilities of an adult, except with regard to “drinking” laws. Generally, you have the right to: be independent from your parents’ control; vote in federal, state and local elections; marry or get medical treatment without your parents’ consent; make your own contract (get a loan, buy a car or rent an apartment); make a will; sue in your own name; work for pay; get a driver’s license without a co-signer; and examine your own credit record. You also are responsible for: serving on a jury if called; paying taxes on any earnings; facing any lawsuits or criminal charges as an adult; and (for men) registering for the military draft. In most cases, your parents no longer have to support you.

## CREDIT

When you’re 18, you can get credit cards and loans on your own without having someone cosign for you, if you can show you are able to make payments. Getting a job, keeping a savings account, buying items on credit and using credit cards responsibly builds a good credit rating as long as you pay your debts back in full and on time. Limit the number of credit cards you apply for and do not make only minimum payments. Shop for the best interest rate and terms before accepting a card or taking out a loan. If you borrow money for a car or a house, the lender will take a security interest (put a lien on the property), and can repossess or foreclose if you do not pay the loan. If you do not pay your credit card charges, you can be sued for not meeting your obligations. Before signing loan papers, make sure you understand the interest rates, payment amounts, due dates and service charges.

# EXPRESSING YOURSELF ONLINE



No matter how well intended, not everything we post online comes across as we hope for. In fact, more than half (57 % says yougov.com) of Americans who use social media have posted or texted something that they regret afterward, most because they worry it will harm their reputation in the workplace.

Reputational harm might be the least of a social commenter's problem. A social media user should be aware of some of the most prominent legal issues that may arise from posting content.

## EMPLOYMENT

In Ohio, employment is “at will,” meaning either you or your employer may end the employment at any time and for any reason unless you have a contract specifying a defined employment term. Your employer may not fire or discriminate against you based on race, sex, national origin, disability, religion (or, in some cases, age), or for opposing unlawful employment practices. You also are entitled to receive at least minimum wage for each worked hour, time and a half for working more than 40 hours a week, and prompt receipt of your paycheck (generally, within a month of earning it). If your employer has 50 or more employees, you may be entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave because you or your spouse gave birth or adopted a child, or to care for your own or a family member's serious health condition. You also may be entitled to up to 24 months of unpaid leave to care for an injured service person.



# CAN I GET FIRED FOR POSTING THIS?

Many employers are allowing and even encouraging their employees to blog and post, but they are also taking steps to limit employee activities to protect the business interest. What's happening in workplaces:

Employers are setting social media polices. An employer is wise to share policies concerning blogging and social network conduct with their employees.

Discipline workers with caution. Some employee communications are Nothing in this pamphlet should be interpreted as legal advice. This pamphlet is meant only for informational purposes. This language was originally authored by the Dayton Bar Association. protected by law, so employers should be careful about attempting to discipline an employee for work-related comments made on an employee's personal blog or page.

What workers comments are protected? Federal law protects communications include those that have to do with protected activities such as whistleblowing or conducting union activities, and communications about a protected status (such as discrimination by gender or race).

# YES!

# APARTMENTS

You can rent an apartment. If you rent an apartment, whether on a month-to-month basis or for one year, your lease agreement should be in writing to protect both you and the landlord. The landlord generally will ask for and hold a security deposit, usually one month's rent (to be returned at the end of the lease), in case you damage the apartment or do not pay your rent. If you break a lease, your landlord can sue you for unpaid rent. When you rent an apartment without a lease, you will usually rent it on a month-to-month basis. In this case, you may stay in the apartment for one month at a time. If you rent an apartment for one year, your agreement typically converts to a month-to-month agreement automatically after the first year, if both parties decide to continue the contract. If you stay for even one day into the following month, you owe rent for that entire month. One month's notice by either you or the landlord can end a month-to-month rental agreement, and one week's notice can end a week-to-week agreement. However, the landlord cannot end the agreement for an illegal (e.g., discrimination, retaliation) reason. Because the landlord's insurance covers only the building, it's a good idea to have renter's insurance to cover your possessions and any liability (such as if your dog bites someone). If you don't pay your rent on time, your landlord must give you three days' notice before seeking a court order to evict you. You will have the opportunity to defend yourself, and lockouts are illegal. Your landlord must provide "fit and habitable" living conditions. If your landlord allows conditions to become so bad that you can't live in the apartment, you may want to contact a local building inspector to report building code violations, or, if that doesn't work, you may want to talk with a lawyer.



**FOR RENT**

- [FORRENT.COM](https://www.forrent.com)
- [APARTMENTS.COM](https://www.apartments.com)
- [APARTMENTGUIDE.COM](https://www.apartmentguide.com)
- [APARTMENTFINDER.COM](https://www.apartmentfinder.com)

# CONTRACTS

A contract is an agreement by two or more people that benefits all of them. Many of our daily transactions are contracts. For example, you are involved in a contract when you take out a loan for a car or for college, buy something on an installment plan, get a credit card, rent an apartment, buy insurance or get medical care. Contracts may be oral or written, although some contracts must be in writing to be effective. Without a written contract, you may not be able to require the other person to perform his/her part of the bargain. Always get a written contract if you buy something that costs more than \$500; sign a lease lasting more than one year; and buy or sell land. Written contracts protect against dishonesty and poor memory, but review them carefully, because they may contain confusing language or be written to favor the other party to the contract. Do not sign a contract until you are sure you understand it. Cross out or fill in any blank spaces on a contract before you sign it. If you don't keep your part of the bargain ("perform" the contract), you can be sued for not meeting your obligations.

**"UNTIL THE  
CONTRACT  
IS SIGNED,  
NOTHING  
IS REAL."**

**GLENN DANZIG**



# DRIVING

Your parents are no longer responsible for any accidents you may have once you turn 18. Driving is a privilege rather than a right; you may lose this privilege if you don't drive responsibly.

# INSURANCE

All Ohio drivers must have automobile liability insurance. If you cannot prove you have insurance, your license may be suspended for at least 90 days, and you will not get your license back until you have served the suspension, obtained insurance and reinstated your license.

# O.V.I OPERATING VEHICLE IMPAIRED

Ohio has strict penalties for individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 who drink and drive. If your Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) or Breath Alcohol Content (BRAC) is .02 or above, but less than .08, you can be convicted of a driving under the influence offense (OVAUC – Operating a Vehicle After Underage Consumption) if you have not reached the legal drinking age. Possible penalties for a first offense include fines, a two-year license suspension and even jail time. Even if your BAC is below .08, you may be convicted of an OVI offense that carries harsher penalties than an OVAUC. If your BAC or BRAC is at or above the legal limit, your license may be suspended for at least 90 days at the time of your arrest. You do not have to submit to a test to measure your BAC/BRAC when asked to by law enforcement,



# JURY DUTY

If you are at least 18 and a U.S. citizen who is a registered voter or licensed driver, you may be asked to serve on a jury. Unless you are excused for some special reason, you are expected to serve. Names of potential jurors are usually chosen from voter registration lists and are selected at random. Not all people selected to appear for jury duty will serve on a jury. Jurors usually will be asked to serve for one to three weeks, unless a case takes longer. Your employer must give you time off for jury duty service, but doesn't have to pay you. However, the county pays you a small amount for your service.

# VOTING

If you will turn 18 by the time of the general election in November, you may register at age 17, vote for candidates only in the primary election, and then vote the full ballot in the general election. To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, have lived in Ohio at least 30 days before the election in which you wish to vote, and register through your local board of elections at least 30 days before the election. You may download a voter registration form and get more information about voting requirements (including residency requirements if you are a college student) through the Ohio Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us).

## BROUGHT TO YOU BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS HELP CENTER

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**MIKE FOLEY**

Montgomery County  
Clerk of Courts

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