

# Student Liability Issues

## Disclosure of Student Status to Clients

For ethical and legal reasons the College requires students to disclose their student status when interning in an agency. This ensures that their representations to clients, agencies, and the public is open, honest, and accurately reflects their professional qualifications and credentials. This also reinforces best practices and the responsibility to respect clients' rights to "informed consent" and "self-determination."

Students should seek their supervisor's guidance on:

- How to introduce themselves to clients (i.e. intern, trainee, etc.)
- How to anticipate, think about, and respond to questions that clients might raise about their student status

## Criminal Offense Investigations and Internship Assignments

Increased public concern in protecting society's most vulnerable members from harm has resulted in national legislation (National Child Abuse Protection Act 1993 and the Jacob Wetterling Act 1994) being passed. These laws allow for the use of national criminal background checks for people working or volunteering with children, the elderly or disabled individuals. Most states now have laws and regulations requiring criminal background checks for employees and volunteers who plan to work in these settings, and interns are included in the latter group. Some organizations may also require drug screenings and credit checks.

Students are asked to self-report any history of charges of a crime (felony or misdemeanor) to the Internship Coordinator so that appropriate internship planning and preparation can occur. It is not relevant or necessary for a student to share details regarding their criminal background information with an organization if the organization does not require it. In other situations, such a record may render a student ineligible for certain internships. Students who have a record are also encouraged to check its exact content to ensure accuracy.

Because the College also has a responsibility to the institutions who offer internships to our students, the Internship and Career Services Office reserves the right not to refer or to place a student in an internship.