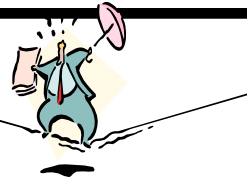


from Student Legal Service:
6 Steps Before Signing a Lease



1. Don't Rush into signing a lease for Fall of 2009! While the early bird gets the worm, keep in mind that you want an apartment not a worm!

2. Know the complaint history of the landlord! Check the history with the Tenant Union at 326 Illini Union. You can easily rent from a landlord with no complaints. Don't settle for one with a bad complaint history!



3. Don't sign a lease for a building that hasn't been built yet! This is unsafe no matter what promises the landlord makes to induce you to sign.

4. Know your prospective roommate(s)! Be sure no semester abroad or wedding is looming.



5. Read the lease! Your rights and obligations are governed by the lease. There is little law that protects you as a tenant, so you must protect yourself!

6. Get it in writing! If you want the place painted, want notice before the landlord enters your apartment, etc., you must have this written into the lease. If it's not in writing, you are out of luck.

NOTE: No advice is given over the phone. You must come in to the office with your I-card and fill out an intake form (or fill out and print on our website) before you can make an appointment for a different day. No walk-in or same-day appointments.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE

324 Illini Union, www.odos.uiuc.edu/sls
Office Open: 8:30am-Noon; 1-4:30pm, M-F

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