



THE 2026 LEGAL ACTION LIST

Use this checklist to ensure your family remains legally protected and compliant:

Audit for BELA Act Compliance

Verify that your school's Code of Conduct aligns with the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act 32 of 2024. In public schools, ensure the School Governing Body (SGB) does not overstep, as it may only recommend expulsion to the Head of Department, not finalise it.

Enforce the Right to a Fair Hearing

Whether in a private school or a university, your child has a constitutional right to be heard and for the family to participate meaningfully in disciplinary proceedings. Universities specifically are bound by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA) and the audi alteram partem rule.

Document a "Litigation-Ready" Paper Trail

Record every incident with dates, screenshots, and witnesses. Always request a written record of any meeting with school or varsity authorities, as these are vital if the matter requires a legal review.

Manage Digital Liability & Cybercrimes

Monitor your child's digital footprint, as the Cybercrimes Act and Protection from Harassment Act are being strictly enforced for university students and even group admins. Avoid "shaming" others on social media, as this is "low-hanging fruit" for defamation lawsuits.

Protect Your Contractual Standing

Never withhold school fees as a form of protest, as this is a contractual breach that weakens your legal position. For private schools, always refer back to your specific enrolment contract to determine your rights and obligations.

Apply the 48Hour "Window of Consultation"

If a crisis occurs, do not sign any admission of guilt or settlement under pressure. Formally request a 48 hour window to review school policies and seek a neutral legal opinion to ensure your child's best interests are served.

Maintain Professional Conduct

Resolve matters through internal policy first to show good faith before "lawyering up" aggressively. Never confront another parent's child directly, as this may be legally viewed as intimidation or harassment.