

Quinnehtukqut Legal News




Volume 7 Issue 2

www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/qlegal.htm
A Newsletter for Native Americans in Connecticut

Winter 2004

American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence:

Five Ways to Fight Domestic Violence

 **Know What Domestic Violence Is.** When spouses, intimate partners, or dates use physical violence, threats, emotional abuse, harassment, or stalking to control the behavior of their partners, they are committing domestic violence. Most victims of domestic violence are women. Children who witness domestic violence are also victims; they suffer from behavioral and cognitive problems. Boys, especially, are more likely to be aggressive and engage in criminal behavior if they grow up in homes where domestic violence exists.

Develop A Safety Plan. If you, a relative, a friend, or a neighbor are experiencing domestic violence, think about ways to make yourself safer. Leave a spare set of keys, emergency money, important phone numbers, and documents like birth certificates, passports, bankbooks, and insurance papers in a safe place your batterer doesn't know about, for example, with a trusted friend or relative. Plan how to get out of your home quickly and safely, should a battering incident begin. Think about a safe place to go to once you leave your home. If you can, learn local crisis hotline numbers, so that you can call for advice or assistance.

Call 911. If you are being battered -- or you know that a relative, friend, or neighbor is being battered by a spouse or intimate partner -- call the police right away for help, if you can get to a phone safely. Don't be afraid to ask for immediate help. Domestic violence is a crime, not a "private family matter."

Exercise Your Legal Rights. You -- or anyone else experiencing domestic violence -- have the right to go to court and petition for an order of protection if you have been battered in one of the fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. In most parts of the country, you can also ask for custody of your children and child support at the same time. You should try to get a lawyer to represent you and protect all of your rights under the law. Call your state or local coalition against domestic violence, a state or local crisis hotline, or the state or local bar association to learn more about where to find legal help. **In Connecticut**, Statewide Legal Services provides legal help if you are a victim of domestic violence. Call 1-800-453-3320. There is also a toll-free Statewide Hotline number: 1-888-774-2900. You will be referred to your nearest domestic violence agency which can also refer you to an attorney. Check the Index of Community Resources at the back of this Newsletter for Hotline numbers of local domestic violence agencies.

Get Help For Your Family So That The Violence Will Stop.

For more information about the Commission and its activities, contact the Commission staff at

ABA Commission on Domestic Violence
740 15th Street, NW
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-1022.2



Federal Recognition Update:

Bureau of Indian Affairs Recognizes Schaghticoke Tribal Nation

On January 29, 2004, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued its "Final Determination" acknowledging the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation. That Determination reversed a prior Proposed Finding issued in December 2003 that the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation had not met two of the seven criteria required for federal recognition. (See Volume 6, Issue 2 of the *Quinnehtukqut Legal News*.) **The first criterion was a requirement to show that most of the Tribe's members are a community that had existed from historical times until the present; the second was to show that the Tribe had had political influence or authority over its members since historical times.** The Bureau's 2004 Final Determination was based on both new evidence submitted to the Bureau after the Proposed Finding was issued and a reinterpretation of existing evidence. The Final Determination becomes effective on May 5, 2004, unless a request for reconsideration is granted. (The Notice of the Decision published in the *Federal Register* of February 5, 2004 notes, however, that on-going negotiations in current litigation may modify or eliminate the possibility of reconsideration.)

The specific areas noted in the Proposed Finding where the Bureau had found holes in the Schaghticoke Petition were the following:

1. There was insufficient evidence to find that a community existed between 1940 and 1967; and
2. There was insufficient evidence to find that the Tribe had exercised political influence within the group from 1801-1875, from 1885-1949 and from 1949-1967.

The Proposed Findings also stated that

The continuous State relationship with a reservation is not evidence sufficient in itself to meet the criteria and is not a substitute for direct evidence at a given point in time or over a period

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Apply Now For Energy Assistance



Fact: This winter is the coldest on record in Connecticut since 1980.

Fact: This is also the winter during which Connecticut has the lowest level of energy assistance available.

If you are worried about how you'll pay your heating bills this winter, apply now! Applications for energy assistance are being accepted now through April 30th (or earlier if funds run out). Applications can take up to 45 days to process, but immediate fuel delivery should be available if needed. Call Infoline (211) or the DSS Energy Line (1-800-842-1132) for information on the closest application site. *Bring proof of income for everyone in the house and a copy of your fuel/utility bill when applying.*

Settlement Of Lawsuit Means Better Access To Medical Equipment Under Medicaid

The following article appeared in the Feb. 2004 edition of CABN Fever

The Department of Social Services (DSS) recently settled a lawsuit brought by Connecticut Legal Services and New Haven Legal Assistance Association concerning the denial of access to needed medical equipment for Medicaid recipients. Medical equipment includes such items as canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, bedpans, hospital beds, special toilet seats, and oxygen machines. Under the settlement, DSS has agreed to individually consider any request for equipment, even if it is not on its pre-established list of covered medical equipment. This means it will individually assess whether the equipment meets the Department's definition of durable medical equipment, including whether the equipment ordinarily serves a medical purpose, and whether the equipment is medically necessary for the individual requesting it.

Most importantly, DSS has agreed that an important aspect of "medical necessity" and "medical purpose" is whether the requested equipment helps individuals to attain or retain capability for self-care or independence, and to avoid institutional placement. Items such as stair glides and voice-activated environmental control units will be paid for under Medicaid if they are designed primarily to serve the needs of individuals with medical problems, and the request is coming from an individual Medicaid recipient who needs the item to stay in the community.

You can get items not on DSS's list by having a physician prescribe the equipment and then having a Medicaid-participating supplier of the equipment request "prior authorization" in writing from DSS. To find out whether a supplier is enrolled in the Medicaid program, call a local drug store or medical equipment supply company and ask them if they are enrolled or call DSS at 860-424-5217 and ask for a list of enrolled suppliers. DSS has 20 business days from the date the request is submitted to act on it. If it denies the request, it must send you a written notice telling you about your right to a hearing to challenge the denial.

DSS has a publication called "How to Get Durable Medical Equipment through the Medicaid Program." It can be found at www.dss.state.ct.us/svcs/medical/dme_broc.htm. If you don't have access to this website and need more information, please contact Kevin Brophy at Connecticut Legal Services, Waterbury Office (203-756-8074), or toll free 800-413-7797, or Sheldon Toubman at New Haven Legal Assistance (203-946-4811).

("Update" continued from front page)

of time. Instead this longstanding State relationship and reservation are additional evidence which, when added to the existing evidence, demonstrates that the criteria are met at specific periods in time.

This last statement was consistent with what the Bureau had ruled in its Final Decision Acknowledging the Petition for Federal Recognition filed by the Eastern Pequots. (See Volume 6, Issue 1 of the *Quinnehtukqut Legal News* for a discussion of that decision.)

The Final Decision in this case, however, ruled that the Bureau would reevaluate its conclusion about the evidentiary value of a continuous State relationship with a Tribe. In addition, the Bureau found that adequate new evidence had been supplied to fill in some of the evidentiary gaps. According to the February 5 Notice in the *Federal Register*:

The Department's reevaluated position is that the historically continuous existence of a community recognized throughout its history as a political community by the State and occupying a distinct territory set aside by the State (the reservation), provides sufficient evidence for continuity of political influence within the community, even though direct evidence of political influence is almost absent for two historical time periods. This conclusion applies only because it has been demonstrated that the Schaghticoke have existed continuously as a community, within the meaning of criterion 83.7(b), and because of the specific nature of their continuous relationship with the State. Further, political influence was demonstrated by direct evidence for very substantial historical periods before and after the two historical periods. Finally, there is no evidence to indicate that the tribe ceased to exist as a political entity during these periods.

The Bureau also concluded that while the evidence remained slim to conclude that there was political influence within the Tribe during certain time periods, "[t]here was no evidence to suggest that the political influence did not exist," and, further, that

Community, when it is demonstrated to exist at more than a minimal level, which has been done here, provides supporting evidence for direct evidence of political processes.



Important Tax Information

Marriage Penalty Eliminated for 2003

For the 2003 tax year, Congress has eliminated the so-called "marriage penalty," under which the standard deduction for married taxpayers was less than twice the standard deduction for a single taxpayer. The standard deduction for a single taxpayer in 2003 is \$4750, and it will be \$9500 for married taxpayers who file joint returns and \$4750 each for those who file separately.



Claim your Earned Income Credit

If you worked in 2003, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC.



- * If you raised one child in your home in 2003 and your family earned less than \$29,666 (or \$30,666 for married workers), you can get up to \$2,547.
- * If you raised more than one child in your home in 2003 and your family earned less than \$33,692 (or \$34,692 for married workers), you can get up to \$4,204.
- * If you weren't raising a child, were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2003, and earned less than \$11,230 in 2003, you can get up to \$382.
- * If you were raising children in 2003, you must file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A and **must** fill out and attach Schedule EIC. **You cannot get the EIC if you fill out Form 1040EZ or fail to attach Schedule EIC.** Married workers must file a joint return.
- * If you weren't raising children in 2003, file the return you would normally file (including the 1040EZ). Be sure to write "EIC" or the dollar amount of your credit on the Earned Income Credit line of your tax form. Do **not** file Schedule EIC.
- * You don't have to calculate your own EIC. If you choose, the IRS will do it for you.
- * A correct name and social security number must be provided for every person listed on the tax return and Schedule EIC. If this information is incorrect or missing, the IRS will delay the refund.



Questions & Answers About the EIC:



Which children qualify for the EIC?

The following children qualify:

- ✓ Sons, daughters; stepchildren, grandchildren, and adopted children
- ✓ Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, or stepsisters – as well as descendants of such relatives – if they were cared for as members of the family
- ✓ Foster children who have been placed with you by an



www.ptla.org

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization that gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems in Maine.

Pine Tree operates a special Native American Unit in its Bangor, Maine office. The unit is staffed by attorneys Judith Plano and Mike Guare, Paralegal Danny Mills, and is headed by Eric Nelson. Judith has recently joined the Unit and is working there full-time. Mike and Danny have worked with the Unit for several years. Eric has worked at Pine Tree for many years on behalf of migrant farmworkers and Native Americans.

Pine Tree attorneys are not licensed to practice law in Connecticut. However, the Native American Unit may be able to give information and help to low-income Native Americans in Connecticut with federal legal problems, such as questions about the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Jay Treaty. Pine Tree can also refer cases to lawyers in Connecticut. The telephone number is 1-800-879-7463.

You can find a list of Indian Legal Services Programs in your state on the web at www.judicare.org/nails.html.

- ✓ authorized government or private placement agency
- ✓ Qualifying children must live with you for more than half of the year. (As of 2002, a full year is no longer required for foster children.) They must be under age 19, or under age 24 if they are full-time students.
- ✓ Totally and permanently disabled children of any age also may be qualifying children. Valid Social Security numbers are required for qualifying children born before December 31, 2003.

Can military personnel claim the EIC?

Military personnel can claim the EIC (and the Child Tax Credit), whether they live in the United States or overseas. Also, under a new definition of "earned income" in effect since 2002, more members of the military may qualify for the EIC or receive a larger benefit.

Military personnel who live with qualifying children while stationed on active duty outside the U.S. can be eligible for the EIC. Even if the qualifying children of a member of the military who is stationed overseas remain in the U.S., they may be claimed for the EIC. This is because IRS considers an individual assigned to an overseas tour of duty to be temporarily absent from the U.S. due to a special circumstance. The length of time the person is absent is treated as though he or she was in the U.S., as long as the individual plans to return to his or her main home in the U.S. at the end of the military assignment. Military couples living apart due to military assignment must still file a joint return to receive the EIC.

An individual in the military under age 19 may be claimed as a qualifying child. If such an individual is temporarily absent due to an overseas military assignment, he or she still may be considered a

(Continued on next page)



("EIC" continued from page 3)

qualifying child as long as he or she intends to return home at the end of the military assignment.

Under new rules in effect since 2002, non-taxable combat pay and allowances for housing and subsistence — including the value of meals and lodging furnished in-kind to personnel residing on military bases — are no longer considered earned income for EIC purposes. Such pay and allowances are indicated on W-2 forms, but no longer are added to regular wage income to calculate eligibility for the EIC. In many cases, this will result in a larger EIC refund since the amount of earned income considered for the EIC is reduced. The purpose of this rule change was to simplify claiming the EIC. Veterans' benefits and military retirement pay are not considered earned income.

For further information on EIC rules for military personnel, see IRS Publication 3 "Tax Information for Military Personnel (Including Reservists Called to Active Duty)."

Can I get a quick refund with my Earned Income Credit?

Yes. But it may not be your best choice. Quick refunds take away money from your EIC. Remember, free tax help is available.

What if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

Many legal immigrants who are employed are eligible for the EIC. Getting the credit will not hurt your immigration status. If you are a Canadian-born Native American, you may be eligible.

I work and get public Assistance benefits. If I get the EIC, will I lose my other benefits?

In most cases, no. The EIC does not affect federal benefits like TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid or housing.

Get FREE Help Filing your Taxes!

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a partner in the I-CAN Earned Income Credit project. If you are eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC), you can use I-CAN to prepare your tax returns on-line, and if you choose, to file them electronically. Click on our website at www.ptla.org/cliented/taxpayer/icanindex.htm and follow the easy instructions. click on our website at www.ptla.org/cliented/taxindex.htm for other tips on filing.



The IRS offers free assistance by computer, telephone, fax and in person. The IRS can help taxpayers get forms, publications and answer a wide range of tax questions. The IRS can also help find free tax preparation for those who qualify.

Personal Computer: Through the Internet, taxpayers can access free tax information on IRS.gov. A new feature for IRS.gov this year is 1040 Central, which has all the help, forms and information taxpayers need to file

their returns. Taxpayers may also check on the status of their refund using the Where's My Refund? tool.

TeleTax: Taxpayers may call 1-800-829-4477 to hear pre-recorded messages covering various tax topics or to check on the status of their refund.

TaxFax Service: By using the phone attached to a fax machine, taxpayers can receive faxed forms and publications by calling 1-703-368-9694 (not a toll-free call). Taxpayers should follow the directions from the prompts.

Telephone: Taxpayers may order current and prior year forms, instructions and publications by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Taxpayers may ask the IRS tax questions by calling the toll-free customer service line at 1-800-829-1040. TTY/TDD users may call 1-800-829-4059.

Walk-In Service: Many post offices, libraries and IRS offices have tax publications, forms and instructions available to pick up.

Taxpayer Assistance Centers: Taxpayers needing face-to-face help solving individual or business tax problems can get help every business day in every IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center. Although appointments are not necessary, taxpayers may call ahead to make an appointment at a time convenient to them or to hear a recorded message with office hours and locations. Local phone numbers for Taxpayer Assistance Centers are available in telephone directories and are posted at IRS.gov. The IRS provides non-English-speaking taxpayers equal access to all services through a phone interpreter.

Assistance with Returns: Free tax preparation is available through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs in most communities. Volunteers help prepare basic tax returns for taxpayers with low or limited incomes. To find a VITA site near you, click on Pine Tree's website at www.ptla.org/vita.htm or call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. Taxpayers may also call AARP — the largest TCE participant — at 1-877-227-7844 to see if they are near a local Tax Aide site.

Braille Tax Material: A variety of Braille material may be ordered at no charge by calling the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). The Braille print files are in .brf format and can be sent directly to an embosser for high-quality Braille output.

Publication 910: To find out what free tax services are available, taxpayers should get IRS Publication 910, Guide to Free Tax Services. **Remember: paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.**

Free Tax Return Assistance

Farnum Neighborhood House, Fillmore Street, New Haven, February 8 & 15, 2-4PM

(Continued on next page)

("Free Help" continued from page 4)

St Peter Church 695 Colorado Avenue, Bridgeport
February 22 1-3PM. For info, call Quinnipiac University
School of Law Legal Clinic, Maria Rivera 1-203-582-
3238

Hartford, CT Sites:

Capital Community College: 950 Main Street, 3rd
Floor, February 4th - March 20th, Wednesdays 10am-
2pm, Thursdays 5-8pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm
Call (860)906-5181 for info or to make an appointment.

**Casey Family Services and the Boys and Girls Club of
Hartford at The Learning Corridor:** 53 Vernon Street
(Commons Building), February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th,
March 6th and 13th, April 3rd and 10th, Saturdays 9am-
1pm. Appointment Only. Call (860)727-1030.

Community Renewal Team, Inc.: Visit the CRT
website at www.crtct.org or call (860)560-5128 for site
locations and hours.

Hartford Public Library: 500 Main Street,
February 17th - April 6th Tuesdays from 5-7pm
Appointment Only. Call (860)695-6295.

Hartford Public Library: 1250 Albany Avenue,
February 4th - April 14th, Hours: Wednesday 5-8pm.
Appointment Only. Call (860)695-7380

Hopewell Baptist Church: 265 Enfield Street, Hartford,
CT, February 7th - April 10th, Tuesday and Thursday
4:30-8pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm Walk-in Only

For more Hartford locations, visit www.tymct.org or call 860-
906-5181.



Increase Your Take-Home Pay With the EIC Advance Payment Option

Most workers get their EIC in one large check from
the IRS after they file a tax return. You have
another choice. Your employer can add part of your EIC
to every paycheck. You get the rest of your credit after
you file your return.

In 2004, you can qualify for an Advance EIC payment if
you have at least one qualifying child and you expect
your 2004 income to be less than \$30,338 (\$31,338 if
you are married).

If you are not raising a child in your home, you are not
eligible for advance payments. You are not eligible if
you get paid day to day; if you have no Social Security
and Medicare taxes withheld from your pay; or if you are
a self-employed worker who cannot advance your EIC to
yourself.

In order to get the advance payment, just fill out a **W-5
form** called the "Earned Income Credit Advance
Payment Certificate" and give part to your employer.
You should be able to get the form from your employer.

You can also get the form by calling **1-800-TAX-FORM**
or you can download the form from the IRS website at
www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html. You can file a W-5
any time during the year, but you must file a new W-5 at
the beginning of every year in order to continue getting
advance payments.

You should **not** ask for advance payment if you hold
more than one job; if you expect to get married during
the year and both of you work; if you expect your income
to increase a lot during the year; or if you have a spouse
who also works, unless you both take advance payments.
If something happens during the year that would change
the amount of the EIC you should be getting, such as
getting married or a big raise, you can ask your employer
to stop putting advance payments in your paycheck. Just
fill out another W-5 form and give it to your employer.

If you get advance payments during the year, you must
file a tax return at the end of the year **and** include the total
amount you received as an advance payment. You must
also file Schedule EIC

Child Tax Credit Benefits Many Workers Receiving the EIC



The Child Tax Credit is now worth up to \$1000 for each
dependent child under age 17. Even families that
earned too little to owe income tax can get the credit. This
credit is different than the Child and Dependent Care
Credit that helps workers who need day care in order to
work.

To be eligible for the credit, you must be able to claim an
exemption for a dependent child under age 17, have
taxable earned income of above \$10,500, and have either a
Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer
Identification Number. Immigrant workers with either
type of number may be able to claim the credit. This credit
does not affect your ability to take the EIC and will not
reduce any benefits you can get from the EIC.

You must file Form 1040 or 1040A (**not** 1040EZ) in order
to claim the credit. The credit is first used to reduce or
eliminate any tax that you might owe. If any credit is left
after your income tax has been eliminated, you then must
file Form 8812 to find out if you qualify for a refund.



The Child and Dependent Care Credit

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit.
The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit
that helps you pay for childcare you need in order to work
or look for work. You can also take the credit if you must
pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who
cannot care for him or herself.

You can claim this credit as well as the EIC and the Child
Tax Credit. You should know, however, that if you earn
too little to pay federal income tax, you **cannot** get this
credit. This is different from the EIC. You can claim the
(Continued on next page)

("Care Credit" continued from page 5)

EIC even if you are earning too little to pay income tax.

You can claim this credit if

- ✧ You paid for care in 2003 for a child under age 13 or for a disabled adult who lived with your family, **and**
- ✧ You needed the child or dependent care in order to work or look for work (In a two-parent family, both spouses must have needed care available in order to work or look for work, unless one spouse was a full-time student or unable to care for him or herself), **and**
- ✧ You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home (such as rent, food, etc), **and**
- ✧ You paid less for your dependent care than your 2003 income. If you are married and filing jointly, the income of the spouse with the lowest income must be more than the amount you paid for care. There are special rules for figuring the income of a spouse who was a full-time student or disabled.

The size of your credit will depend on the number of children or dependents needing care, the amount of your income and what you paid for care during the year.

In order to claim the credit, you must file Form 1040 or 1040A. Specific instructions on this Credit are included with the forms. If you need help, contact the VITA site nearest you. You may get free information about this Credit, or any other tax matter, by calling 1-800-TAX-1040.

CLS OFFERS NEW FREE SERVICE FOR SENIORS

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. now offers seniors with consumer problems free legal assistance through its Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE) hotline. The Hotline telephone number is 1-800-296-1467.

The CLPE will provide advice, representation and referrals, **FREE OF CHARGE**, to seniors 60 and older with such consumer problems as:

- credit card debt
- medical debt
- abusive and harassing debt collection practices; and
- identity theft

Seniors with other consumer problems can also call the hotline for advice.

The Hotline is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Bi-lingual staff are available to speak with Spanish speaking callers.

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:

Quinnehtukqut Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME 04401.

Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.

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You may contact us at Quinnehtukqut Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Coe Building, 61 Main St, Room 41, Bangor ME 04401. Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org or call 1-800-879-7463.

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, Inc.

Statewide Legal Services slsct.org/

Call Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, Inc. (SLS) if you are low income and you need free legal help in the following areas:

- ★ Housing
- ★ Family Matters
- ★ Welfare

- ★ Medicare
- ★ Medicaid
- ★ Other Government Benefits

Telephone Numbers To Call:

In the Middletown calling area: 1-860-344-0380

From other places in Connecticut: 1-800-453-3320

9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

Call for free advice and information on Thursday nights from 5:30pm-7:30pm, as well as Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm.

The articles in this paper are meant to give information, NOT to give legal advice. No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts



INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES

This is a list of some key resources, which will offer you service or direct you to the best local resource.



CRISIS SERVICES

(available 24 hours a day)



INFOLINE

www.infoline.org

INFOLINE is an integrated system of help via the telephone – a single source for information about community services, referrals to human services, and crisis intervention. It is toll-free and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Multilingual caseworkers and TDD access is available.



Child Abuse and Neglect:

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline
www.state.ct.us/dcf/HOTLINE.htm

1-800-842-2288

TDD 1-800-624-5518



Domestic Violence:

www.larcc.org/pamphlets/children_family/get_restraining_order.htm

Statewide Hotline: This toll-free number will connect you to the nearest domestic violence agency.

888-774-2900

☎ Ansonia:

The Umbrella Project

203-736-9944

Avon: Interval House www.intervalhousect.org	860-409-2583
Bridgeport: Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.	203-384-9559
Columbia/Danielson/Dayville: Domestic Violence Program/United Services	860-774-8648
Danbury: Women's Center of Greater Danbury www.danbury.org/womenctr	203-731-5206
Enfield: Network Against Domestic Abuse	860-763-4542
Falls Village: Women's Support Services	860-364-1900
Greenwich: Domestic Abuse Service Greenwich YWCA www.ywcagreenwich.org/domesticabuse.htm	203-622-0003
Hartford: Interval House www.intervalhousect.org	860-527-0550
Manchester: Interval House www.intervalhousect.org	860-645-4033
Meriden: Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis	203-238-1501
Middletown: New Horizons	888-774-2900
New Britain: Prudence Crandall Center for Women www.prudencecrandall.org/	860-225-6357
New Haven: Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven www.dvsgnh.org	203-789-8104
New London/Norwich: Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut	888-774-2900
Norwalk: Domestic Violence Crisis Center www.dvccct.org	888-774-2900
Stamford: Domestic Violence Services	203-357-8162
Torrington: Susan B. Anthony Project www.sbaproject.org/	860-482-7133
Waterbury: Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury	203-575-0036
Willimantic/Wauregan: Domestic Violence Program/United Services	860-456-9476



Elder Abuse and Neglect:

INFOLINE (for after hours emergencies).....211

Connecticut Department of Social Services. (Statewide toll-free number):.....1-888-385-4225
www.dss.state.ct.us/svcs/socialwork/pg3.htm



Mental Health:

Ansonia: Valley Mental Health Center www.bghealth.org/behavioral_health.htm/	203-736-2601
Branford: Harbor Health Services www.harborhealthservices.org/index2.htm	203-483-2630
Bridgeport: Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center	203-551-7507
Danbury: Danbury Hospital www.danhosp.org/Behavioral_Health/	888-447-3339
Dayville: United Services www.unitedservicesct.org	860-774-2020
Derby: Griffin Hospital Psychiatric Crisis Team www.griffinhealth.org/psychiatric/Inpatient%20Psychiatric%20Unit.htm	800-354-3094

East Hartford: Intercommunity Mental Health Group	860-895-3100
Enfield: North Central Counseling Services	860-863-8068
Hartford: Capitol Region Mental Health Center www.dnhas.state.ct.us/crmhc/homepage.htm	860-297-0999
Manchester: Genesis Center	1-877-884-3571
Meriden: Mid-State Medical Center www.rushfordcenter.org/programs/mbhs.htm	1-800-567-0902
Middletown: River Valley Services	860-344-2100
Milford: Bridges Community Support System www.bridgesmilford.org/	203-878-6365
New Haven: Connecticut Mental Health Center 9am-10pm 203-974-7735 www.dnhas.state.ct.us/cmhc/ 10pm-8am 203-974-7713 203-974-7300	
Norwich: Southeastern Mental Health Authority www.dnhas.state.ct.us/smha/index.htm	860-886-9302
Plainville: Wheeler Clinic www.wheelerclinic.org/	888-793-3500
Stamford: F.S. DuBois Center	203-358-8500
Torrington: Northwest Mental Health Authority	1-888-447-3339
Waterbury: Waterbury Hospital wh.qscend.com/content/31/122/default.aspx	203-573-6500
Willimantic: United Services www.unitedservicesct.org	860-456-2261

Poison Control:

Connecticut Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222
poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/ TDD 866-218-5372



Sexual Assault Crisis Programs: (Hotline Numbers)

Call 888-999-5545 to get the name of the sexual assault crisis service nearest you or go to their website at www.connsacs.org/.

❖ Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield Co. www.cwfefc.org/sexual_assault.html	203-333-2233
❖ Women's Center of Greater Danbury Sexual Assault Crisis Service www.danbury.org/womenctr/	203-731-5204
❖ Hartford Region YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services www.ywcahartford.org	860-522-6666
❖ Women and Families Center Sexual Assault Crisis Services	860-635-4424
❖ Rape Crisis Center of Milford	203-878-1212
❖ New Britain YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Service	860-223-1787
❖ Greater New Haven Sexual Assault Crisis Service	203-624-2273
❖ Women's Center of Northeastern Connecticut Bronzefrogs.com/center/index.html	860-456-2789
❖ Susan B. Anthony Project for Women (Serving Northwestern Connecticut) www.sbaproject.org	860-482-7133
❖ Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury Crisis Services	203-575-0036
❖ Sexual Assault Crisis Services	203-329-2929



Youth Crisis:

Contact the nearest Youth Service Bureau through your town hall



LEGAL RESOURCES



Lawyer Referral Service: www.ctbar.org/article/articleview/291
This service can recommend a private lawyer who, for a small fee,



will assess a case and give an estimate of charges.

Fairfield County	203-335-4116
Hartford	860-525-6052
New Haven Area/Waterbury/Middlesex County	203-562-5750
New London/Norwich	860-889-9384

Legal Assistance Programs:

These organizations give free civil legal help to income eligible people. This help includes telephone advice, referrals, direct representation, and giving out self-help material, depending on the priorities and resources of the organization.

STATEWIDE Statewide Legal Services **1-800-453-3320**
in Middletown **860-344-0380**
slsct.org/

Statewide Legal Services screens cases for all legal assistance programs in the state, giving brief service and advice, community education materials, and referrals to local legal services offices for non-criminal cases. **Please call Statewide Legal Services first**, unless you have an emergency that needs to be settled that day or you are over age 60.

◆ Bridgeport	Connecticut Legal Services www.connlegalservices.org/index.htm	203-336-3851
◆ New Britain	Connecticut Legal Services	860-225-8678
◆ New London	Connecticut Legal Services	860-443-0109
◆ Stamford	Connecticut Legal Services	203-348-9216
◆ Waterbury	Connecticut Legal Service	203-756-8074
◆ Willimantic	Connecticut Legal Services	860-456-1761
◆ New Haven	New Haven Legal Assistance www.nhlegal.org/index.htm	203-946-4811
◆ Hartford	Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc (serving Greater Hartford) www.ghta.org/index.htm	860-541-5000

Center for Medicare Advocacy www.medicareadvocacy.org/

This organization gives legal advice, written materials and representation to elderly and disabled people denied Medicare coverage for home health care, skilled nursing facility care, rehabilitation and other health services. Services are free to residents of Connecticut. Telephone: **860-456-7790**

Connecticut Legal Rights Project www.mindlink.org/clrp.html

This organization helps low-income adults who have or are perceived to have psychiatric disabilities. Its staff may also help clients to protect their civil rights in conservatorship and commitment proceedings or in discrimination in housing.

Telephone: **1-877-402-2299**

Connecticut Lawyer's Legal Aid to The Elderly

This organization offers legal help to low-income elderly in the Hartford area. Telephone: **860-273-4303**

Children's Law Center www.clcct.org/

This organization gives legal representation to children in northeastern Connecticut using a lawyer/mental health team approach. The Center also provides legal information about situations involving children through the Children's Lawline (1-888-LAWDOOR) Telephone: **860-232-9993**

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

www.cwealf.org/
This organization provides a free telephone counseling, information and legal referral line for help on discrimination, harassment and family matters. The group also offers community education and training, mainly in employment and family law. For information on workshops, call **860-247-6090**. Telephone: **1-800-479-2949**

Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients clelderlaw.org/

LAMP is part of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc, a non-profit law firm. Telephone: **1-800-413-7796**

Disabilities:

Connecticut Office Of Protection and Advocacy For Persons With Disabilities www.state.ct.us/OPAPD/

60B Weston Street
Hartford CT 06120-1551
Toll Free Telephone: **1-800-842-7303**
Hartford area: 860-297-4300
TDD: 860-297-4380
Fax: 860-566-8714
E-Mail: OPA-Information@po.state.ct.us



Discrimination:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

www.state.ct.us/chro/index.html

Capitol Region:
1229 Albany Avenue
Hartford, CT 06112-2193
Tel.: **860-566-7710**


Southwest Region:
1057 Broad Street
Bridgeport CT 06604
Tel.: **203-579-6246**

West Central Region:
Rowland State Government Center
55 West Maine St.
Suite 210
Waterbury CT 06702-2004
Tel.: **203-805-6530**
TDD: **203-805-6579**

Eastern Region:
100 Broadway
Norwich CT 06360
Tel.: **860-886-5703**
TDD: **860-886-5707**

Central Office
21 Grand Street
Hartford CT 06106
Tel.: **860-541-3400**
1-800-477-5737



 **Social Security:** www.ssa.gov/

Statewide s3abaca.ssa.gov/pro/foi/foi-home.html **1-800-772-1213**

★ Ansonia.....	203-735-6201
★ Bridgeport.....	203-365-8452
★ Bristol.....	860-584-2716
★ Danbury.....	203-748-3569
★ East Hartford.....	860-290-5420
★ Hartford.....	860-493-1857
★ Meriden.....	203-238-0346
★ Middletown.....	860-347-8562
★ New Britain.....	860-229-4844
★ New Haven.....	203-773-5201
★ New London.....	860-443-8455
★ Norwich.....	860-886-7118
★ South Norwalk.....	203-849-1911
★ Stamford.....	203-359-0030
★ Torrington.....	860-489-1633
★ Waterbury.....	203-756-7476
★ Willimantic.....	860-423-6386



Some Helpful Native American Web Sites

- Native Web: www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance: www.ptla.org
- Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:
www.hanksville.org/NAResources
- Native Links: www.johnco.com/native/
- Aboriginal Links:
www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aborcan.htm
- Wabanaki Confederacy:
communities.msn.com/WabanakiConfederacy
- Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut
www.larecc.org
- Statewide Legal Services: slsct.org/

