

# Quinnehtukqut Legal News



Volume 3 Issue 1

A Newsletter For Native Americans In Connecticut

Summer 1999

## Managed Care Organizations May Not Be Covering Some Services for Medicaid Recipients

New Haven Legal Assistance Association has been advised that the Managed Care Organizations which provide health care for Medicaid recipients may not be covering all of the services which they are supposed to cover. The New Haven group is documenting examples of these practices. The practices which they are trying to document include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Statements by a Managed Care Organization that it will only pay for acute (not chronic) symptoms;
- ✓ Refusals to consider long-term treatment plans, regardless of the medical condition;
- ✓ Setting an absolute maximum for the number of therapy sessions that will be approved at one time, regardless of the seriousness of the condition. For example, you might be told that you can have five sessions for now; if you need more, you can ask later;
- ✓ Routine reductions in the number of therapy sessions without any justification. For example, you asked for therapy once a week, but were allowed to have it once every other week, with no explanation about why your request was turned down;
- ✓ Refusing to allow treatment unless a patient is expected to improve significantly;
- ✓ Replacing regular psychotherapy with drugs.
- ✓ Also, some companies may not be providing the written notices which they are required to give you whenever services are denied, reduced, or ended.

If you have not been getting written notices, or if you believe that you are in one of the above situations, you may want to call New Haven Legal Assistance. They will send you a form to fill out. The number to call is **203-946-4811**.

## Some Public Benefits Will Not Hurt Your Immigration Status

Immigrants who are found to be a "public charge" are not allowed to apply permanent resident status in the future. Getting certain benefits, such as Temporary Family Assistance, SSI or SAGA can

make you ineligible. There are other benefits which you can get, however, which will have no effect on your ability to apply for permanent residency. These include: Medicaid, or the HUSKY program; food stamps, WIC, or other supplementary food programs; use of public housing; access to immunization and testing and treatment for communicable diseases; and other social supports, such as child care services, energy assistance, and job training programs.



## Eviction Victory

A proposed section of a bill dealing with evictions was defeated in the legislature. The section would have prevented tenants from defending against an eviction unless they could post money with the court. This proposal was viewed as a threat to the right to be heard in court. In the face of strong opposition from housing mediators, local social services officials and others, the section was removed from the bill.



## Native American Legal Briefs:

- ★ *Golden Hill Paugussetts' Petition for Acknowledgement Will Be Considered;*
- ★ *Land Claims Settlement Bars Expansion of Mashantucket Pequot Reservation;*
- ★ *Custody of Aboriginal Child*

## Bureau of Indian Affairs agrees to give full consideration to Golden Hill Paugussett's Petition For Federal Acknowledgement

On May 24, 1999, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs found that the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe was entitled to full consideration of its Petition for Federal Recognition. Under Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations, Federal Acknowledgement will be granted to a tribe if it can meet seven required criteria. (See Quinnehtukqut Legal News, Volume 2, Issue 1 for a general description of the Acknowledgement procedure. The article appears on the internet at <http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/federal.htm>). The Bureau will not give full consideration to a Petition,

(Continued on page 3)



## Special Education and Native Americans

by Bonnie Bostrom

*This is a response to an article published in Volume 2, Issue 2 of the Quinnehtukqut Legal News, appearing at the Pine Tree Legal website at <http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/cwebsped.htm>. That article in turn was a response to an article by Bonnie Bostrom published in Volume 2, Issue 1 (<http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/education.htm>). Bonnie is the Chief of Education for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.*

Special Education issues are very important to Native Americans. It is good that different opinions are expressed in print so that we have the issues out in the open. I want to thank the writer, Anne Louise Blanchard, Esq., who responded to my article, for highlighting some points that may even need further clarification.

Ms. Blanchard was correct to infer that I feel that a special education referral should only happen as a last resort. I agree with Ms. Blanchard when she states that "... a school needs to explore and provide regular education intervention services to children who may need extra help." Ms. Blanchard then refers to a "special education" planning and placement team. According to Roger Frant, an Educational Consultant with the Special Education Division of the State Department of Education for Connecticut, the team is simply a Planning and Placement Team. To call the Team a "special education" team is somewhat misleading.

The task of the Planning and Placement Team is to find out what interventions have been tried and what options may be available. One option may be referral for an assessment. It sounds as though Ms. Blanchard believes that a child could be referred to special education for something such as attendance problems. If that were the case, it may explain why 39% of all the Native Americans attending one school district were in special education. The norm is about 12% of ANY population. It has been my experience that far too many Native American children are being mislabeled and placed into special education as a first resort. I also believe that very few truly disabled children do not get identified.

I would also like to point out that many states use different criteria to decide whether a child should be diagnosed as learning disabled. In my article I gave some figures which are used by states to decide whether a child has learning disabilities. Ms. Blanchard criticized those figures, saying that they were not the figures used in Connecticut. Those figures are used by some states, such as New Mexico. An important aspect of using these kinds of



## About Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization which provides free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems.

Pine Tree operates a special Native American Unit in its Bangor office. The unit is staffed by attorney Craig Sanborn and headed by Eric Nelson. Craig is a member of the Penobscot Nation. He joined the Pine Tree Staff in September of 1998. Eric has worked for many years at Pine Tree on behalf of migrant farmworkers and Native Americans. Craig and Eric can be reached at 1-800-879-7463.

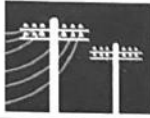
Pine Tree attorneys are not licensed to practice law in Connecticut. However, its Native American Unit may be able to give information and help to low-income Native Americans in Connecticut with federal legal problems, such as questions about the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Jay Treaty. Pine Tree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



figures in making a diagnosis of a learning disability is that a child may be considered learning disabled in one state, but not in another.

To be sure, it is important to understand all these issues. The point I want to stress is that Special Education should be the last resort. All other resources and interventions should be exhausted first. Far too many Native American students are placed in Special Education. Parents deserve to understand this process and should remember that even well-intentioned people make mistakes. Unfortunately, sometimes those mistakes make a great difference in the lives of children who are placed in Special Education inappropriately.

Again, it is through discussion and sharing ideas about such important issues that understanding is reached. I appreciate Ms. Blanchard's comments and her support for Native Americans in their attempts to give their children an education that is appropriate for them.



### Keep Your Utility Service

The "winter shut off protection" for utility service ended April 15. Here are some important things to remember to avoid having your service shut off.

☛ Always call the utility company *before* service is shut off. It's easier to keep service than to get it turned back on.

☛ If you owe money for past service, you are entitled to set up a "reasonable" payment plan. Generally, a reasonable payment plan means paying your current bill plus paying something on your past due amount. Figure out what you think you can reasonably afford before you call the utility. If you can't reach an agreement with the person you are speaking to, ask to speak to the Company Review Officer (CRO). If you can't reach agreement with the CRO, you can appeal to the CT Department of Public Utility Control (1-800-382-4586). Be sure to tell the utility you are appealing. In general, your service can not be shut off during the appeal process.

☛ After you have made a payment arrangement, it is important to make your payments on time. If your financial situation changes and you can't afford your current arrangement, contact the utility to change your plan. Call the company if you can't make a payment.

*("Acknowledgement" continued from front page)*

however, if it finds that a tribe asking for Acknowledgement has presented "little or no evidence" that it meets one of the required criteria.

In June of 1995, the Department of the Interior refused to acknowledge the Golden Hill Paugussetts. It found that the Tribe had not met one of the required criteria. That criterion was that members be descended from a historical Indian tribe.

That decision was appealed to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals. The Board agreed that Acknowledgement should be refused. The Board, however, sent five questions to the Secretary of the Interior concerning this case. The May, 1999 findings by the Assistant Secretary answer those questions. The issue addressed by the Assistant Secretary is whether the Tribe's Petition should be given full consideration. The Assistant Secretary found that the Tribe had in fact produced enough

evidence about its descent from an historical Indian tribe. This case does **not** settle the question whether the Tribe is entitled to Acknowledgement.

The Paugussetts' claim for recognition is based on their descent from William Sherman. One important question is whether William Sherman was in fact an Indian. The evidence provided in this case included the following documents:

census records (which identified Sherman as an Indian one year, but not in other years);  
a mortgage of William Sherman's lands held by an agent for the Paugussetts;  
both civil and church death records;  
William Sherman's obituary; and  
two reference materials published in the 1880's identifying William Sherman as a Paugussett.

The Assistant Secretary found that this information was enough to allow the Tribe full consideration of its petition. Moreover, during the Assistant Secretary's review of the questions, some more evidence was brought to light by BIA researchers. The Assistant Secretary noted that this additional evidence, which may help to explain some of the documents, was another reason to give the Paugussetts full consideration.

### ***Federal District Court denies Mashantucket Pequots' request to expand its reservation over the objection of the State.***

In December of 1998, the Federal District Court in Connecticut, in effect, denied a request by the Mashantucket Pequots to expand their reservation in eastern Connecticut. The decision was criticized by the Tribe in an editorial appearing in the March edition of the Pequot Times. The editorial claimed that the decision was based on "emotionalism and heated headlines" and called on the Department of the Interior to appeal the ruling "in the defense of good law and fairness to all American Indian Nations." The U.S. Department of Justice filed its appeal in early June of this year.

Specifically, the Tribe had asked the United States Secretary of the Interior to take 165 acres of land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe. Had the Secretary been allowed to take the property into trust, it would have meant that (a) the land would be "Indian Country," outside state civil and criminal jurisdiction; (b) the land would be exempt from state and local taxation; and (c) the land would be exempt from state and local land use regulation.

The Secretary issued a Notice, in 1995, that he intended to take the land into trust. At that point, the

*(Continued on page 4)*





*("Reservation" continued from page 3)*

State of Connecticut and the three towns where the land was located filed suit. They argued that, under the terms of the Settlement Act which recognized the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, the Secretary could not take the land into trust. According to the trial judge, this is the first case in which a State has opposed a decision to take land into trust on the grounds that the decision violates the terms of an Indian land claims settlement.

Under general federal Indian law, the Secretary of the Interior may buy land and take that land into trust for the benefit of a tribe. The purpose for this power, according to an earlier case, is "to rehabilitate the Indian's economic life and to give him a chance to develop the initiative destroyed by a century of oppression and paternalism." The question faced by the trial judge in this case was whether the Settlement Act limited this broad power with regard to the Mashantucket Pequots.

The important issue in this case was the language of the Settlement Act. The towns and the State argued that the Secretary could not take land into trust if the land was located outside the so-called "Settlement Lands." These were lands specifically described in the Settlement Act, which include the current reservation. The Tribe and the Department of the Interior, on the other hand, argued that land outside the Settlement lands could be taken into trust if it had not been paid for by "Settlement Funds." These Funds were money set aside for the benefit of the Tribe under the terms of the Settlement Act.

The judge agreed with the State and the towns. He stated the issue as being "[i]n practical terms ... whether the area under the sovereignty of the Tribe can be expanded against the wishes of the State and the Towns without Congressional approval."

The judge's decision divides land bought by the Tribe into three categories: land within the Settlement Lands, land outside the Settlement Lands, and any land bought with Settlement Fund money. According to the decision, land within the Settlement Lands will be held in trust; land outside the Settlement Lands will not be held in Trust; and land bought with Settlement money will not be held in trust, unless the land bought is within the Settlement Lands.

The judge also looked at the legislative history. He believed that that history supported his decision. Therefore, the judge concluded, the Settlement Act does not allow the Tribe to expand its territorial sovereignty beyond the boundaries of the Settlement Lands when the State objects to the expansion.



### ***Supreme Court of Canada awards custody of aboriginal child to adoptive, non-native grandparents***

In February of 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down a decision in a child custody case involving the young son of an aboriginal Canadian mother. The mother is a member of the Swan Lakes First Nation of Manitoba. For several years before the decision, the child had been living with his biological, aboriginal grandfather. The decision gave custody of the child to the mother's non-native, adoptive parents who live in Connecticut. The decision has deeply angered many in the Canadian aboriginal community.

According to Vice Chief Dennis White Bird, the Manitoba representative to the Assembly of First Nations in Canada, during the 1960's until the early 80's, the Canadian Government engaged in "exporting" First Nation children to the United States and Europe. Vice Chief White Bird called this policy "genocidal" and said that it resulted in "decimating our population." This case is viewed as part of that policy. Vice Chief White Bird explained that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs had been following the progress of this case for an extended period of time and has given its "moral support" to the biological grandfather as well as to the child.

The Supreme Court of Canada decision reinstated a lower court decision in British Columbia, where the trial court judge had ordered that custody be awarded to the Connecticut grandparents. The facts found by the trial court were as follows.

Nancy and Duncan Haimerl were a childless couple living in Montreal. They adopted two Aboriginal sisters, one of whom, Melissa, eventually became the mother of the child in question. A year after the adoption, the Haimerls moved to Connecticut.

Over the years, the trial judge found, Melissa had serious behavioral and psychological problems. In 1994, Melissa became pregnant with her son, Ishmael, and eventually moved back in with her adoptive parents. The possible father, who is African-American, has denied paternity, although he has had some contact with the child. *(Continued on page 5)*





("Custody" continued from page 4)

Melissa cared for Ishmael for the first month, and then started to disappear from home for two to three weeks at a time, leaving her adoptive parents to care for her child. They established a strong bond with the baby over the period.

At about this time, Melissa, with the encouragement of her adoptive parents, contacted her birth parents who lived in Vancouver. She visited them, staying for about 2½ months. She returned to Connecticut in the late summer of 1995. In November, Melissa took Ishmael and moved in with her birth father in Vancouver.

The Haimerls finally located Melissa and the baby. Ishmael was placed in foster care in British Columbia in mid-November of 1995. In February of 1996, however, an interim custody order in British Columbia awarded temporary custody to Melissa's birth father. Melissa has never asked that she be given custody of Ishmael. She has strongly supported her birth father's claim, however. Ishmael was in his birth grandfather's custody from March of 1996 until the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on the case in February of 1999. Since the ruling, Ishmael has been returned to Connecticut, where he is today.

The trial judge looked closely at both parties asking for custody of the child. He found that both sets of grandparents loved the child and had bonded with him. The judge believed that both sets of grandparents would provide a home and care for the child. In settling on the Haimerls, however, the judge appeared to give great weight to the fact that the Haimerls could offer greater economic security and that they had promised to make Ishmael appreciate his cultural heritage, including his African-American heritage.

In making his decision, the trial judge gave some consideration to the language of the Child and Community Services Act which states that "the cultural identity of aboriginal children should be preserved." He noted, however, that the child's heritage also included his African-American background. The judge concluded that

this is not a case of taking an aboriginal child and placing him with a non-aboriginal family in complete disregard for his culture and heritage. The fact is that Melissa is the daughter of [the Haimerls] and Ishmael is their grandson.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal for British Columbia reversed the earlier decision. The judge there found that the first judge had "placed undue emphasis on economic matters and underemphasized ties of blood and culture." The judge also gave

weight to the fact that the child had been living with his biological grandfather for some two years. The Supreme Court decision reversed the Court of Appeal, but did not discuss the case in any detail.

Following the Supreme Court of Canada decision, the Sagkeeng First Nation, an intervenor in the case before the Court of Appeal, asked the Supreme Court to rehear the case. The Tribe claimed that they were never served with a copy of the application for leave to appeal or with a copy of the notice of appeal itself. The Court decided that the Tribe was not officially a party to the case and did not need to be sent the notices. It also considered whether there had been any failure of justice at the original hearing. The Court decided that all of the interested parties had had adequate opportunity to raise questions which they thought were important. No purpose would be served by reopening the proceeding.



## You Can Still Get Child Care Assistance

Low and moderate income families can still apply for the Child Care Assistance Program. This will pay part of your child care costs.

To qualify, you must:

- ✓ Need child care because you are working; or be a pregnant mother who is attending a substance abuse treatment program; and
- ✓ Have a gross income below 50% of the state median income (\$28,300 for a family of three)

The Child Care Assistance Program is still accepting applications from families who receive DSS cash assistance; teen parents who are in high school; and families who are in the process of getting off state assistance.

To apply, call 1-800-226-8400



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.



## CREDITS

*This Newsletter is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., a non-profit organization providing free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems in Maine. The views expressed by individual authors in this Newsletter are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.*

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*The Editor wishes to thank Shirley Bergert, Esq., of Connecticut Legal Services for her help in putting this Newsletter together.*

*You may view this Newsletter on the Internet at:  
<http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/qlegal.htm>*



## Statewide Legal Services

Call Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, Inc. (SLS) if you are low income and believe you have a legal problem. It is a toll-free telephone hotline that can give you free help in the following areas:

- **Housing**
- **Family Matters**
- **Welfare**
- **Medicare**
- **Medicaid**
- **Other Government Benefits**

If you meet income eligibility standards, SLS can help you as follows:

☛ **Problems that can be settled quickly.** SLS staff can handle some of these problems themselves. For example, SLS staff can call your local General Assistance office to explain a mistake.

☛ **More complicated problems.** SLS can refer you to one of the four legal service agencies in Connecticut, a law school clinic, a specialized legal services agency, or a **pro bono** (free) lawyer. SLS makes referrals based on its priorities and resource limitations.

☛ **Problems you can handle yourself.** SLS can give you telephone instruction, send you written materials, or tell you about classes to help you represent yourself.

☛ **Non-priority problems.** If you have a problem which cannot be accepted by SLS or a referral agency, SLS can give you general advice.

### 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**

## Legal Issues In Tribal Employment

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1999**  
**SAMOSSET RESORT**  
**ROCKLAND, MAINE**

A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY  
THE PENOBSCOT NATION  
THE PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE, AND  
UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

PRESENTED BY  
DRUMMOND WOODSUM & MACMAHON  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, PORTLAND, MAINE

Employment within tribal enterprises and Indian country is a testing ground for tribal self-government. This conference is for tribal officials, attorneys, human resources personnel, and anyone interested in current legal problems affecting employment in Indian country. Participants will be updated on current developments in the law; innovative tribal employment regulations, rights, and remedies; and practical, problem-solving tools in personnel management.

### CONFERENCE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

(Partial Listing)

**Federal Policy Initiatives Affecting Tribal Employment**

Hon. Kevin Gover

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

**Sustainable Tribal Economies**

Winona LaDuke

Program Director, Honor the Earth Foundation

**Civil Rights Issues in Tribal Employment**

Kaighn Smith, Jr.

Drummond, Woodsum & MacMahon, Portland, Maine

**The Application of Federal Labor and Employment Laws**

Leander Bergen

Nordhaus, Haltom, Taylor, Taradash & Frye, Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Using Tribal Employment Regulations and Remedies**

Patrice Kunesch

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Attendees will receive a conference handbook with written material on these and other subjects to be covered.

A reception will be held for conference participants, speakers and guests on Thursday September 16, 1999 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The conference program will be held throughout the day on Friday, September, 17. For more information, please contact: Kaighn Smith, Jr., Drummond, Woodsum & MacMahon, 245 Commercial St., Portland, Maine 04104 (207) 772-1941 email: [ksmith@dwmlaw.com](mailto:ksmith@dwmlaw.com).





### **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](mailto:csamp@ptla.org).



## **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**.....1-800-203-1234

INFOLINE is a Statewide Information, Referral, and Crisis Intervention Service. Callers can get help 24 hours a day. The professional caseworkers answering the phone can give up-to-date information about agencies and programs, can make referrals, and can intervene in crises, including suicide prevention.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect:**

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline.....1-800-842-2288  
TD 1-800-624-5518

### **Domestic Violence:**



**Ansonia:**  
The Umbrella Project.....203-736-9944  
**Bridgeport:**  
YWCA of Eastern Fairfield County.....203-334-6154  
**Danbury:**  
Women's Center of Greater Danbury.....203-731-5206  
**Dayville:**  
Domestic Violence Program/United Services, Inc...860-774-8648  
**Enfield:**  
Network Against Domestic Abuse.....860-763-4542  
**Falls Village:**  
Women's Emergency Services.....860-824-1080  
**Greenwich:**  
Domestic Abuse Service Greenwich YWCA.....203-622-0003  
**Hartford:**  
Hartford Interval House.....860-527-0550  
**Meriden:**  
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis.....203-238-1501  
**Middletown:**  
New Horizons.....860-347-3044  
**New Britain:**  
Prudence Randall Center for Women.....860-225-6357  
**New Haven:**  
Domestic Violence Services of.....203-789-8104  
Greater New Haven, Inc.

### **New London:**

Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut.....860-701-6000

### **Norwalk:**

Women's Crisis Center, Inc.....203-852-1980

### **Stamford:**

Domestic Violence Services, Inc.....203-357-8162

### **Torrington:**

Susan B. Anthony Project.....860-482-7133

### **Waterbury:**

Women's Emergency Shelter.....203-575-0036

### **Willimantic:**

Domestic Violence Program/United Services, Inc...860-456-9476

### **Elder Abuse and Neglect:**



INFOLINE (for after hours emergencies).....1-800-203-1234

Statewide(Tollfree):.....1-888-385-4225

### **Eastern Region:**

Greater Norwich/New London Area .....860-886-0521

Windham Area.....860-823-3366

### **North Central Region:**

Hartford Area.....860-723-1003

Manchester/New Britain/Bristol Areas.....860-647-1441

### **North West Region:**

Torrington Area.....860-496-6950

Waterbury/Danbury Area.....203-597-4141

### **South Central Region:**

Middletown/Meriden/Wallingford Areas.....860-704-3040

New Haven.....203-974-8027

### **South West Region:**

Bridgeport Area.....203-551-2701

Norwalk Area.....203-855-2759

Stamford Area.....203-251-9392

### **Mental Health:**

#### **Ansonia:**

Valley Mental Health Center.....203-736-2601 (ext. 370)

#### **Bridgeport:**

Greater Bridgeport Community.....203-579-6651  
Mental Health Center

#### **Danbury:**

Danbury Hospital.....203-797-7899

#### **East Hartford:**

Emergency Services.....860-895-3100

#### **Enfield:**

North Central Counseling Services.....860-253-5020

#### **Hartford:**

Capitol Region Mental Health Center.....860-297-0999

#### **Manchester:**

Genesis Center.....860-643-3680

#### **Meriden:**

Mid-State Medical Center.....1-800-567-0902

#### **Middletown:**

River Valley Services.....860-344-2100

#### **New Haven:**

Connecticut Mental Health Center.....203-789-7713

#### **Norwich:**

Southeastern Mental Health Authority.....860-886-9302

#### **Plainville:**

Wheeler Clinic.....860-747-8719

#### **Stamford:**

F.S. DuBois Center.....203-358-8500

#### **Torrington:**

Northwest Mental Health Authority.....860-482-1560

#### **Waterbury:**

Waterbury Hospital.....203-573-6500

#### **Willimantic:**

United Services.....860-456-2261

**Poison Control:**

Connecticut Poison Control Center.....1-800-343-2722  
TD 860-679-4346

**Sexual Assault Crisis Programs:***(Hotline Numbers)*

Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield Co., Inc  
Rape Crisis Service.....203-333-2233  
Women's Center of Greater Danbury  
Sexual Assault Crisis Service.....203-731-5204  
Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Service  
of Hartford Region YWCA.....860-522-6666  
Central Connecticut Sexual Assault  
Crisis Service.....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 Southeastern Connecticut  
Sexual Assault Crisis Service.....860-442-4357  
Northeastern Connecticut Sexual  
Assault Crisis Service.....860-456-2789  
Susan B. Anthony Project for Women  
(Serving Northwestern Connecticut).....860-482-7133  
Women's Emergency Shelter Sexual Assault  
Crisis Service(serving greater Waterbury.....203-753-3613  
Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis Center  
(Lower Fairfield County).....203-329-2929

**Youth Crisis:**

Contact the nearest Youth Service Bureau through your town hall

**LEGAL RESOURCES****Lawyer Referral Service:**

*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

*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.*

**Bridgeport**.....Connecticut Legal Services.....203-336-3851  
**Hartford**.....Greater Hartford Legal Assistance (serving Greater Hartford).....860-541-5000  
**New Britain**.....Connecticut Legal Services.....1-800-233-7619  
**New Haven**.....New Haven Legal Assistance.....203-946-4811  
**New London**.....Connecticut Legal Services.....1-800-413-7798  
**Stamford**.....Connecticut Legal Services.....1-800-541-8909  
**Waterbury**.....Connecticut Legal Service.....1-800-413-7797  
**Willimantic**.....Connecticut Legal Services.....1-800-413-7796  
Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients.1-800-413-7796



Connecticut Legal Rights Project.....860-262-5030

*This organization helps mental health clients, residents of mental health facilities, and out-patient clients of community residential facilities.*

**Disabilities:**

**Connecticut Office Of Protection and Advocacy For Persons With Disabilities**

60B Weston Street  
Hartford CT 06120  
Toll Free Telephone: 1-800-8427303  
Hartford area: 860-297-4300  
TDD: 860-566-2102  
Fax: 860-566-8714

**Discrimination:**

**Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**

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

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

**West Central Region:**  
50 Linden Street  
Waterbury CT 06702  
Tel.: 203-596-4237

**Eastern Region:**  
City Hall, Room 210  
100 Broadway  
Norwich CT 06360  
Tel.: 860-886-5703  
TD: 860-886-5707

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

**Social Security:**

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.....203-787-7771  
New London.....860-443-8456  
Norwich.....860-886-7116  
Stamford.....203-359-0030  
Torrington.....203-756-7476  
Waterbury.....203-756-7476  
Willimantic.....860-423-6386

**Some Helpful Native American Web Sites:**

Nipmuc Indian Association  
of Connecticut...<http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/>  
Pine Tree Legal  
Assistance.....<http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/wabanaki.htm>  
Index of Native American Resources on the  
Internet.....<http://www.hanksville.org/N/resources/>  
NativeLinks.....<http://www.johnco.com/native/>  
Native Sense.....<http://www.nativesense.com/>

