Native American Issues:

Office of State-Tribal Relations: This bill would have created a new Office of State-Tribal Relations within the governor’s office. The bill was approved by the Senate but died when it was not voted upon by the House of Representatives.

Private Land Deer Permits: This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to issue, with no fee, private land deer permits to Indians to hunt on their Tribe’s reservation lands. The reservation must be at least 250 acres for members to be eligible. The permit allows them to hunt deer from November 1 through December 31 using a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow. Currently, Indians may hunt on their reservation lands without a license under the same regulations and during the same hunting season as licensed hunters generally. This bill passed and has been signed into law.

Welfare Issues:

Public Act 00-2 was passed during the Special Session of the Legislature this June. The bill was designed to set the budget for the Department of Social Services. However, the bill also included some major changes in welfare policy. These include:

Security Deposit Guarantee Program:

Before the change, people getting cash benefits (such as temporary family assistance or general assistance) and living in emergency housing were entitled to get a cash security deposit to help them move into permanent housing. This law has been changed. People in this situation are now eligible only for a guarantee that DSS will pay a security deposit to the landlord instead of having DSS make a cash payment directly to the landlord. Cash payments can still be paid in very limited cases, but only if there is money available in the state’s safety net account. If you: (a) get cash benefits; (b) are living in emergency housing; (c) cannot live in permanent housing for a number of listed reasons; and (d) are faced with emergency circumstances which threaten the health, safety or welfare of a child living with you, you may be eligible for a cash payment to your landlord for one month’s rent.

Prior Authorization for Prescriptions:

DSS has given the authority to issue regulations that will require prior authorization for certain drugs covered by Medicaid, state-administered general assistance, general assistance, or the CommPACE program. This means that you will be unable to get these prescriptions unless you or your doctor has gotten prior approval from an independent pharmacy consultant authorized by DSS. The drugs that are affected by the program are any first prescription for a drug costing over $500 for a thirty day supply and any early refill of any drug covered by these programs. This bill is expected to make it harder for doctors to prescribe brand-name drugs instead of generic drugs.

Federal Recognition for Eastern Pequots and Paucatuck Eastern Pequots

On March 31, 2000, the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs published Proposed Findings in the Federal Register. These Findings recommended granting the Petitions for Federal Recognition filed by both the Eastern Pequots and the Paucatuck Eastern Pequots.

In both Proposed Findings, which are identical in many areas, the Assistant Secretary stated that there was not enough evidence in the record at the time the Findings were issued to decide whether the two Tribes were in fact a single Tribe after 1973 or whether they were two separate communities. The Assistant Secretary did find that, whether there was one Tribe or two, there was enough evidence to give federal recognition. In reaching this conclusion, the Secretary placed great weight on the fact that the Eastern Pequots at the Lantern Hill Reservation had been recognized by the State of Connecticut since colonial times. The Tribes and other interested parties were invited to provide more evidence during the comment period on the question of whether there were in fact two separate Tribes.

Under Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations, there is a comment period that runs for 180 days after the date on which the Proposed Findings are published in the Federal Register. No final decision will be issued until the comment period has ended. The towns of Ledyard, Preston and North Stonington are contesting the proposed findings.
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

Now you can call for free advice and information on Thursday nights from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., as well as Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free Help For Tax Problems

If you are a low income tax payer facing an audit, an administrative appeal, or litigation about your state or federal taxes, you may be eligible for free legal help. Quinnipiac College School of Law Legal Clinic (203-287-3238) and UCONN School of Law Tax Clinic (860-570-5165) offer free clinics to help with tax problems. They can give you free advice about your rights and free income tax preparation. All consultations are free and all information is confidential. Income limits apply.

You May Qualify for Medicaid, Even if You Don’t Get Cash Assistance

The following articles are based on information provided by CABIN, a publication of the Connecticut Alliance For Basic Human Needs.

You no longer need to be eligible for cash assistance in order to be eligible for Medicaid. This separation between eligibility for cash benefits and Medicaid is called “delinking.” It means that families who lose or never received cash assistance may be eligible for Medicaid.

States are now required to take steps to identify who may have been wrongly terminated and to reinstate those benefits. In Connecticut, the Department of Social Services is trying to identify families that have been wrongly terminated from Medicaid since October 1, 1996. Families that were incorrectly terminated or incorrectly denied Medicaid will be reimbursed by DSS for their out-of-pocket medical costs. DSS will also reimburse providers for a family’s outstanding bills.

If you lost Medicaid since October 1, 1996 and either paid for medical care or still owe medical bills, call DSS to find out if you may have been wrongly dropped from the Medicaid program. You can also call Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380.

New Elder Law Web Site

Connecticut Legal Services has a new web site to answer legal questions that affect the elderly. The web site address is www.CTElderLaw.org. It has information about:

- Government assistance programs
- Health care programs
- Social Security and SSI
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Prescription programs
- Food stamps
- Elder law issues such as nursing homes, patients’ rights, living wills, etc.

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
(in available 24 hours a day)

INFORMATION

INFORMATION 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

Domestic Violence:

Ansonia:
The Umbrella Project: 203-736-9944

Avon:
Interval House: 860-409-2583

Bridgeport:
Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.: 203-334-6154

Danbury:
Women's Center of Greater Danbury: 203-731-5206

Darien:
Domestic Violence Program/United Services, Inc.: 860-774-8648

Enfield:
Network Against Domestic Abuse: 860-763-4542

Falls Village:
Women's Support Services: 860-824-1080

Greenwich:
Domestic Abuse Service Greenwich YWCA: 203-622-0003

Hartford:
Interval House: 860-527-0550

Manchester:
Interval House: 860-645-4033

Meriden:
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis: 203-238-1501

Middlesex:
New Horizons: 860-301-0030

New Britain:
Prudence Crandall Center for Women: 860-225-6357

New Haven:
Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven: 203-789-8104

New London:
Domestic Violence Services of New London County: 888-301-0030

Norwalk:
Domestic Violence Crisis Center: 203-852-1980

Stamford:
Domestic Violence Crisis Center: 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: 860-456-9476

Elder Abuse and Neglect:

INFOLINE (for after hours emergencies): 211

Statewide (Toll free):
1-888-385-4225

Eastern Region:
Greater Norwich/New London Area: 860-886-0521
Windham Area: 860-465-3550

North Central Region:
Hartford Area: 860-723-1003
Manchester/New Britain/Bristol Areas: 860-647-5930

North West Region:
Torrington Area: 860-496-6950
Waterbury/Danbury Area: 203-596-4242

South Central Region:
Middlesex/Meriden/Wallingford Areas: 860-764-3049
New Haven: 203-974-8009

South West Region:
Bridgeport Area: 203-551-2701
Norwalk Area: 203-955-2759
Stamford Area: 203-251-3932

Mental Health:

Ansonia:
Valley Mental Health Center: 203-736-2601

Bridgeport:
Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center: 203-551-7400

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: 860-262-5200

Milford:
Bridges Community Support System: 203-878-6365

New Haven:
Connecticut Mental Health Center: 203-974-7300

Norwich:
Southeastern Mental Health Authority: 860-886-9102

Plainville:
Wheeler Clinic: 860-747-8719

Stamford:
F.S. Duflois Center: 203-358-8500
X Torrington:
Northwest Mental Health Authority............. 860-482-1560
X Waterbury:
Waterbury Hospital........................................ 203-573-6500
X 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 Region YWCA
- Sexual Assault Crisis Services.................... 860-522-6666
- Central Connecticut YWCA
- 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
- Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis.... 203-624-2273
- Northeastern Connecticut
- Sexual Assault Crisis Service.................... 860-456-2789
- Susan B. Anthony Project for Women
vor (Servicing Northwestern Connecticut)........ 860-482-7133
- Women's Emergency Shelter Sexual Assault
Crisis Service (Servicing greater Waterbury)... 203-753-3613
- Sexual Assault Crisis Center
1, 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....................................................... 860-525-6082
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........ 203-336-3951
- 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........ 1-800-413-7899
- Stamford............... Connecticut Legal Services........ 1-800-541-8900
- 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
This organization helps mental health clients, residents of mental health facilities, and out-patient clients of community residential facilities.
Telephone: 860-262-5030

Connecticut Lawyer's Legal Aid to the Elderly
This organization offers legal help to low-income elderly in the Hartford area.
Telephone: 860-273-8164

Children's Law Center
This organization gives legal representation to children in northeastern Connecticut using a lawyer/mental health team approach.
Telephone: 860-951-7392

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund
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

Disabilities:
Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities
60B Weston Street
Hartford CT 06120
Toll Free: 1-800-842-7303
Hartford area: 860-297-4300
TDD: 860-566-2102
Fax: 860-566-8714

Discrimination:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
Capitol Region: Southwest Region:
1229 Albany Avenue................................. 1057 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06112........................................ Bridgeport CT 06604
Tel.: 860-566-7710........................................ Tel.: 203-579-6246

West Central Region:
50 Linden Street
Waterbury CT 06702
Tel.: 203-596-4237
Norwich CT 06360
Tel.: 860-886-5703

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

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
- Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:
  http://www.hanksville.org/NARessources/
- Native Links:
  http://www.johnco.com/nativel/
- Native Sense:
  http://www.nativesense.com/
- Aboriginal Links:
  http://www.bloorstreet.com/308block/aborcan.htm
- Native American Internet Resources:
  http://my.atienet.net/~ahuntley/nativevam.html
- Dusters Native American:
  http://www.speccent.com/~duster/volc2.html