

# Quinnehtukqut Legal News



Volume 2 Issue 2

A Newsletter For Native Americans In Connecticut

Winter 1999



## Connecticut Welfare Update:

### Temporary Family Assistance: Diversion Program

#### Background

In 1997, the Connecticut Legislature set up a program called the Temporary Family Assistance Diversion Program. The program began on October 1, 1998. It was created to "divert" families who would otherwise be eligible for TFA benefits from getting actual TFA benefits. In return, other kinds of support would be provided to those families. In theory, the diversion program will allow you to overcome obstacles which could push you further into poverty. Under this program, if you are eligible for TFA benefits, you can get a lump sum cash payment if you do not need or want ongoing cash assistance. For example, if your car breaks down and keeps you from getting to work, you could apply for a lump sum cash payment to make the necessary repairs. This would allow you to continue working.

This program was proposed by the Department of Social Services. The original proposal gave DSS workers the absolute discretion to decide if a family would be required to accept the diversion program instead of getting TFA benefits. It also failed to ensure that people in the diversion program could get the same services offered to TFA recipients. Phone calls and letters from concerned citizens and advocates helped to get a bill passed that addressed these major concerns.

The diversion program that was passed allows you to get cash up to the amount of three months' worth of your TFA grant. However, in figuring your 21-month TFA time limit, the diversion payment will count as if you had actually received three months of TFA payments. This is true regardless of the amount of cash you get under diversion. You can only get diversion assistance once in 12 months. You cannot receive it more than three times in your lifetime.

#### How Does The Diversion Program Work?

- If you are eligible for TFA benefits, DSS staff will decide if you should be offered diversion.
- The program is voluntary; you have a choice about whether to accept it or go on TFA.

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## Pine Tree Welcomes New Attorney to Staff of Native American Unit

In September, Craig Sanborn became the new Staff Attorney for the Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. Pine Tree is a non-profit organization which provides free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) matters. The Native American Unit is headed by Eric Nelson who has worked for many years at Pine Tree on behalf of Native Americans and migrant farm workers.

Craig is a member of the Penobscot Nation. His mother was born and raised on Indian Island. His father was born and raised off the reservation. Craig was born in Okinawa, Japan, where his father served in the military. After his father retired from the military, Craig's family returned to Maine. Craig received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Maine. Deciding that he wanted to develop a "skill to be of service" to the Native population in Maine, Craig then went on to law school at the University of Minnesota.

While in school in Minnesota, Craig joined the American Indian Law Student Association, where he served as treasurer. During his summers, he worked on cases involving federal tribal law, including Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) issues and helping Tribes get "Treatment As a State" status under the federal Clean Water Act. With this status, a Tribe has some legal tools to control upstream, non-Indian polluters of a Tribe's water supply. Craig also helped Tribes draft their own internal legislation.

Upon graduating from law school, Craig decided to return home to Maine. After a short time in private practice, Craig is pleased to join Pine Tree. He enjoys the opportunity to work with all the Tribes in the State, both on and off Reservations. He believes that his work empowering low-income individual Indians will ultimately strengthen the Tribes themselves.

Pine Tree attorneys cannot practice law in Connecticut. However, the Native American Unit may be able to help low-income Native Americans in Connecticut by answering questions about federal legal problems, such as ICWA and the Jay Treaty. It can also refer cases to lawyers in Connecticut. The Telephone Number is 1-800-879-7463.



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- DSS must give you a written description of all benefits you can get under both TFA and the diversion program.
- If you decide to accept diversion, you must sign a form stating that you agree to it.
- If you decide to accept diversion, you will have three business days to change your mind.
- Under diversion, you may receive a lump sum payment equal to the cash equivalent of three months of TFA for your family's size. For example, a family of three in most of Connecticut can get up to \$1,629 (\$543 x 3).
- If you accept diversion, you will not be eligible for the regular TFA program for three months *unless* DSS decides that you have an "undue hardship".
- For up to six months after getting your diversion payment, you can still qualify for TFA cash assistance, as long as your income is below the federal poverty level. Otherwise, you must pass a much stricter income test.
- Diversion counts against your 21-month time limit. This means that if you apply for TFA later, you will only be eligible for 18 months of TFA.
- You may be offered TFA even if you are exempt from the work requirements and time limits. If you accept diversion and later apply for time-limited TFA benefits, your diversion payment will **not** count against the 21-month time limit.
- You may be offered diversion even if you have used up your 21 months of TFA and have applied for a six month extension.
- You can continue to receive your full child support payments while getting diversion.
- If you receive diversion, you and your family will be eligible for other services, including food stamps, transitional child care, employment services, transportation, housing, utility assistance, and Medicaid. You should know that if you get food stamps, the diversion payment will not be counted as income for the month in which you get the payment. However, if you hold on to the money into following months, the payment may be counted as income. This may effect your eligibility for food stamps in those months.

## 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:

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • <i>Housing</i>        | • <i>Medicare</i>                  |
| • <i>Family Matters</i> | • <i>Medicaid</i>                  |
| • <i>Welfare</i>        | • <i>Other Government Benefits</i> |

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**

### What Are The Eligibility Requirements For Diversion?

- You must be otherwise eligible for TFA benefits. If you have used up your 21 months of TFA and apply for a six-month extension, you may also be offered diversion assistance.
- You must have a job or good job skills, along with a high prospect of getting a job in the very near future.
- Your family has a problem that can easily be fixed with a diversion payment, such as a need for car repair, child care, work clothes, or tools.

### Should I Accept Diversion Assistance?

That decision is an individual one that only you can make. DSS must tell you, in writing, of your options if you are offered the diversion program. Diversion does allow you to avoid getting TFA if you prefer not to do so. Remember, however, that, under diversion, you will not be eligible for cash assistance for three months. While there is a hardship

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exception, whether you get it depends on the discretion of DSS. Before accepting the diversion program, try to decide whether you can do without monthly payments.

## Basic Needs Program

Anyone who is disabled solely because of mental health or addiction problems and who would formerly have been eligible for General Assistance will now be referred to DMHAS. That Department will provide funding for treatment of mental health and addiction problems. In addition, under the new "Basic Needs" program, treatment providers can fill out vouchers for their clients to meet certain basic needs of those clients, including shelter.

Final regulations have not yet been drafted to cover this program. However, the program is in effect. In order to qualify for the program, go to your local DSS office (if you live in Norwich, go to the local General Assistance office) and apply for the State Administered General Assistance cash assistance program **AND** the SAGA Medical Assistance program. If you are turned down for the cash assistance program because you are disabled solely because of a mental health or addiction problem, you will then be referred to a DMHAS-funded treatment program. That treatment program can fill out the vouchers to get you assistance to meet some basic needs.

It is **very** important to fill out the application for SAGA Medical Assistance. You need SAGA Medical Assistance to qualify for DMHAS-funded treatment and the Basic Needs program.

## Non-emergency Medical Transportation

Last winter, DSS quietly stopped covering non-emergency medical transportation for people on State Administered General Assistance (SAGA). This service allows destitute people eligible for SAGA medical assistance to get basic medical care. When DSS stopped providing the coverage, it meant that some people were unable to receive needed ongoing care.

For people with no income who suffer from mental health and addiction problems and whose treatment is funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the lack of coverage was even more severe. Those people faced the possibility that they could not get access to other assistance to meet basic needs. Without transportation to treatment providers, these people would not have been able to receive vouchers to meet needs under the "Basic Needs" program.

After some hard work by legal services advocates, DSS has decided to comply with state law and restore coverage for SAGA non-emergency medical transportation. Non-emergency ambulance transportation will be reinstated first. The target date for all other non-emergency transportation is December 1, 1998. DSS will send a notice that the service has been restored to all SAGA medical assistance recipients and providers.



## Native American Legal Briefs

### Schaghticokes ask for Federal Acknowledgment in federal district court

The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation is involved in two cases in federal district court in Connecticut. As part of those cases, the Tribe has asked the court to decide whether the Tribe is entitled to Federal Acknowledgement. If the court agrees to make that decision, the Tribe would then proceed through the lengthy Acknowledgement proceeding with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BAR). (For a general description of the Acknowledgement process, please see the Quinnehtukqut Legal News, Volume 2, Issue 1 on the internet at <http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/qlegal.htm>)

The first case was filed in 1985 by the United States government. It is a condemnation proceeding to get land from the Tribe to be used for the Appalachian Trail. The Tribe believes that allowing the condemnation action would take additional land from the Tribe's already small Reservation, would threaten one of the few rattlesnake dens remaining in Connecticut, and would violate the 1790 Non-Intercourse Act. The judge in that case has stated that, if the Tribe were entitled to federal acknowledgement, the U.S. Government could not condemn the land. Because the question of acknowledgement has not yet been decided by BAR, the judge "stayed" the action in this case. Therefore, the case will not be decided until the acknowledgement question is settled.

The second case was filed earlier this year by the Schaghticokes. It asks the court to restore about 1,900 acres of land to the Tribe. The Tribe believes that the land was improperly transferred from the Tribe under the Non-Intercourse Act.

The Tribe has asked the judge to consolidate these two cases, which both involve the question of

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*("Legal Briefs" continued from page 3)*

the Tribe's federal status, and to decide the question of status. The Tribe argues that, unless the judge decides the Tribe's status, these two cases will not be decided for many years to come. A ruling on whether the judge will decide the Tribe's status is expected in the near future.

### ***Tribal Courts must be allowed to hear lawsuits first when a case is filed in both Tribal and State Courts***

In July of 1998, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that lawsuits filed in both State and Indian Tribal Courts must be heard in Tribal Court first. The case involved issues that had never been raised before in Connecticut.

In 1996, two state police officers assigned to the Foxwoods Casino and a former security employee of the casino filed a lawsuit in Connecticut Superior Court against the senior officers of the casino and the Chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council. The three plaintiffs claimed that they had been investigating possible criminal activities at the casino. They claimed, among other things, that they were then falsely and publicly accused by the casino executives of breaking the law themselves. As a result, they claim, the two police officers were reassigned and the security officer was fired.

The Superior Court dismissed the lawsuit. The judge found that the three plaintiffs had "failed to exhaust their tribal remedies," even though no tribal remedies had been asked for at the time. The plaintiffs appealed that decision to the Connecticut Supreme Court. At that point in time, however, the two police officers also filed a suit in the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court. Mr. Maranda, the former security officer, did not join in that suit.

The Connecticut Supreme Court reversed the Superior Court. Since Mr. Maranda never filed anything in Tribal Court, his case was sent back to the Superior Court for trial. However, the case filed by the two police officers in Tribal Court involved basically the same issues raised in Superior Court, as well as basically the same parties. Therefore, the Court decided, they should go forward in Tribal Court before being allowed to continue in State Court. The Court ordered that the suit in the Superior Court be "stayed".

In reaching its decision, the Court relied on a number of United States Supreme Court decisions. Those cases discussed a principle called "exhaustion of tribal remedies". The U. S. Supreme Court decisions pointed out that there is a federal policy supporting tribal self-government and self-

determination. They noted that tribal courts play a vital role in tribal self-government. Moreover, direct competition between the federal courts and tribal courts would interfere with a Tribe's authority over reservation affairs.

The Connecticut Supreme Court decided that direct competition from state courts was just as likely to disrupt tribal self-government and self-determination. Therefore, since the two police officers had filed a case in Tribal Court, they needed to try that case first.

With respect to Mr. Maranda, however, no suit had been brought in Tribal Court that involved him. The Court found that the policy against interfering with tribal court proceedings did not apply in that circumstance. Therefore, the principle of exhaustion of tribal remedies did not apply.



### ***Special Education Services Provide an Important Step in Educating Disabled Children***

*by Anne Louise Blanchard, Esq.*

*Anne Louise Blanchard is an attorney with Connecticut Legal Services in Willimantic.*

This is a response to an article appearing in the Summer, 1998, edition of this Newsletter regarding special education. The article seemed to encourage parents to view special education as a last resort for their children. In fact, special education is an important step in providing appropriate education for a disabled child. Early intervention can be critically important for a child with special needs.

If your child is being evaluated or identified for special education services, you have tremendous legal rights. With special education services, you, the parent, can make sure that your child is offered the right educational program. You do not have the same amount of influence in a regular program.

Under Connecticut law, a school needs to explore and provide regular education intervention services to children who may need extra help. In addition, the law requires a school to refer a child promptly to a special education planning and placement team meeting (PPT) when the child has been suspended repeatedly or has shown unsatisfactory behavior, attendance, or progress in school. *(Continued on page 5)*

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The parent's role at the PPT is extremely important, as shown by recent amendments to federal special education law. You must be invited to every PPT meeting. You must agree to any testing for your child. You must be told in writing about any PPT at least five school days before the meeting and you must be given the date, location and purpose of the PPT. The PPT must be held at a time and place convenient for both you and the school.

The law requires that any evaluation of your child be done in the child's native language and that the tests not be culturally biased. If you have any concerns that your child's tests are invalid because they did not take your child's Native American heritage into account, you may be entitled to an independent evaluation at public expense. You also do not have to use your own insurance for any testing recommended by the school.

You should request a copy of any testing before any meeting to discuss the results. You also have the right to tape-record PPT meetings and to bring anyone you wish to the meeting.

If your child has been identified for special education services, the program offered to your child must be provided in the least restrictive environment. This means that your child should only be placed outside the regular classroom if your child's needs cannot be met inside the classroom by using additional help such as aides, computers or other technology, or modification of the regular education curriculum.

If you are dissatisfied with your child's program in any way, you do not need to remove your child from the special education program. Rather, you can enforce your right to have your child receive an **appropriate** educational program. Call a PPT meeting, express your concerns, contact an advocate or attorney, and request due process, if necessary.

If the school suggests a change in your child's program with which you disagree, you are not required to agree with the school. Instead, do not agree with the change and ask for due process. Your child will remain in the last agreed upon placement during the due process hearing.

The article in *The Quinnehtukqut Legal News* states incorrectly that a child in third grade must have a 19 point discrepancy between his or her ability and achievement to be identified as learning disabled. The discrepancy in other grades is stated to be 23 points. In fact, the law does not define a "significant discrepancy," although Connecticut commonly uses a 21 point discrepancy.

Finally, federal law prohibits discrimination against

## CREDITS

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

a child with disabilities. If your child receives a certificate of completion, rather than a diploma, merely because the child is a special education student, you may be able to challenge that decision. In addition, you may be able to challenge a college's decision not to admit your child on the grounds that the child was a special education student.

As mentioned in the article, you can request a parent guide to special education from the Special Education Resource Center at 860-632-1485. Additional information is available from the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center at 1-800-445-CPAC. Legal advice and education pamphlets are available from Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 or 344-0380 in the Middletown area.

## Claim Your Earned Income Credit

If you worked in 1998, 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 1998 and your family earned less than \$26,473, you can get up to \$2,271. ■ If you raised more than one child in your home in 1998 and your family earned less than \$30,095, you can get up to \$3,756. ■ If you weren't raising a child, earned less than \$10,030 in 1998, and were between ages 25 and 64, you can get up to \$341.

■ If you were raising children in 1998, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, **not** Form 1040EZ. **Be sure to attach Schedule EIC.** ■ If you weren't raising children in 1998, file the return you would normally file.

VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for **free**. To find the VITA site near you, call 1-800-829-1040. Be patient -- the line is often busy. **Remember, paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.**



## Income Guidelines For Energy Assistance

If your income falls within these limits, you may be eligible for energy assistance. If your income falls within 0-150% of the poverty guidelines, you qualify for help from the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). If your income falls within 150-200% of the poverty guidelines **AND** you have a disabled or elderly (60+ years) member of your household, you qualify for the State Appropriated Fuel Assistance Program (SAFA).

In order to qualify, you cannot have liquid assets greater than \$10,000 if you are a homeowner, or greater than \$7,000, if you are not. There is an exception, however. Your assets won't disqualify you if the amount of your assets over those limits **plus your income are, when added together, less than the income limits for assistance.**

### Annual Poverty Income Amounts

Family Size	100%	125%	150%	200%
1	\$8,050	\$10,063	\$12,075	\$16,100
2	\$10,850	\$13,563	\$16,275	\$21,700
3	\$13,650	\$17,063	\$20,475	\$27,300
4	\$16,450	\$20,563	\$24,675	\$32,900
5	\$19,250	\$24,063	\$28,875	\$38,500
6	\$22,050	\$27,563	\$33,075	\$44,100

### Energy Benefits--Home Owners

Income as % of poverty level*	Basic Heat Benefit (Primary heat only; benefit paid to vendor)	Basic Heat Benefit (Primary heat only; benefit paid to vendor)
	<u>Vulnerable**</u>	<u>Nonvulnerable**</u>
0%-100% (CEAP)	\$475	\$430
101%-125% (CEAP)	\$280	\$240
126%-150% (CEAP)	\$205	\$175
150%-200% (SAFA)	\$190 (all households)	

\* If a household member gets TFA, AFDC or AABD, your household is automatically eligible for CEAP. The benefit level is determined by household income. If income exceeds 150% of poverty level, the household is eligible for the lowest CEAP benefit.

\*\* Vulnerable households have a member who is disabled, 60+ years, or under 6 years; all others are nonvulnerable.

### Energy Benefit--Renter Benefits

Income as % of Poverty level	"Renter" Benefit (Heat included in rent & rent exceeds 30% of gross income; benefit paid to household)
0%-100%	\$70
101%-125%	\$55
126%-150%	\$40
150%-200%	(No renter benefit)

You can apply for CEAP and SAFA assistance at local Community Action Agencies. Call 1-800-842-1132 or INFOLINE at 1-800-203-1234 for local sites. The application period is 10/98 through 3/15/99. If you receive AFDC, TFA, AABD or food stamps, DSS should send you preprinted application forms. The heating bills must be in the name of a household member and a copy of the bill should be included with your application.

### Other Sources For Assistance:

**Fuel Banks:** **Operation Fuel** gives assistance to households between 150% and 200% of the poverty level, though there may be funds to help people at other income levels. Call INFOLINE at 1-800-203-1234 to get local sites.

**Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund:** This program gives energy assistance, including help with utility and energy bills for people who served in the military during certain time periods and were honorably discharged. Spouses and dependent children can also get assistance. Call INFOLINE for local sites.

**Weatherization:** These programs are interest subsidized loans for homeowners. They are available through Community Action Agencies and may be available from utilities. AFDC and AABD recipients may be able to get funding from DSS for repairs needed to allow them to stay in their homes.

**Arrearage Forgiveness Programs:** All gas companies have programs beginning each November where CEAP and SAFA eligible households are put on budget plans. If you stay on the budget plan, your back bills will be forgiven on a semi-annual basis. Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating also have programs. Apply to your utility.

**Hardship:** Low income "hardship" customers are entitled to have gas heat and electric service turned on between 11/1 and 1/15 of every year, even if they owe the utility money. The exception is if gas heat was provided during the prior winter because of "hardship" and the gas service was turned off between 4/15 and 10/31. If you fall into that category, you can get gas service only by paying the lesser of \$100, the minimum payments due under a payment arrangement, or 20% of the debt due to the gas company when the gas was shut off. However, gas and electric service **must** be provided year-round if a lack of service is life-threatening, even if you owe money to the utility. Apply for "hardship" protection at the utility every fall.

The articles in this paper are meant to provide information, **NOT to give legal advice.** Do not try to interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been fully informed of all the facts involved.



## 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 Crandall 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 (Toll free):.....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

**Web Sites of Interest To Native Americans:**

Nipmuc Indian Association  
of Connecticut...<http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/>  
Pine Tree Legal  
Assistance.....<http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/qlegal.htm>  
Index of Native American Resources on the  
Internet.....<http://hanksville.org/NAresources/>

