

Quinnehtukqut Legal News



Volume 3 Issue 2

A Newsletter for Native Americans in Connecticut


Winter 2000



Bureau of Indian Affairs Revises



Procedures To Reduce Delays in the Federal Acknowledgement Process; Bureau Will No Longer Provide Additional Research Once a Tribe is on the Active Consideration List

 On February 7, 2000, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs announced a change in some of the internal procedures used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in reviewing petitions for federal acknowledgement of Indian Tribes. The changes took effect on February 11. The stated reason for the changes was to reduce the delays now facing Tribes that have petitioned for acknowledgement. In making the changes, the Bureau will substantially cut back on the amount of help that it had previously offered to Tribes seeking recognition.

The Bureau recognized that there is a large backlog of petitions asking for recognition. This has meant that there have been delays of several years before the Bureau will even begin to review a petition that is ready for active consideration. In Connecticut, two tribes, the Eastern Pequots and the Paucatuck Eastern Pequots, were placed on the active consideration list in early 1998. They have been waiting for a decision ever since. The Schaghticoke Indian Tribe has been ready to be placed on the active list since 1997.

The announced changes do not change the regulations governing the acknowledgement procedure. They are simply a different way to review petitions under the existing regulations. (Continued on Page 3)



Crystal Treadwell joins Staff of Pine Tree's Native American Unit

The Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal Assistance welcomed another member to its staff on November 4, 1999. Crystal Treadwell, the new paralegal, is no stranger to Pine Tree. She had been an intern with the Bangor office since last January. She joins Eric Nelson, who heads the Unit, and Staff Attorney Craig Sanborn. Pine Tree is a non-profit organization in Maine that gives free help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) matters.

Crystal grew up in the Bangor, Maine area and attended area schools. She traces her roots to the Maliseet and Penobscot Tribes. Based on years of research done by her mother, Frances Paul Smith, Crystal is a member of Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick. Many relatives continue to live on the reservation, in nearby Woodstock, and in Houlton, Maine.

Crystal has three siblings in the Bangor area. Her brother Eric is a Native American artist. Her older sister, Hulene, will graduate in May from University College in Bangor with a Bachelor's degree in Human Services. Her younger sister, Jamie-Jo, will start college in the fall to become an elementary school teacher.

Crystal and her husband, John, live in Glenburn, Maine with their three children, Joseph-Storm (8), Dakota Luke (6) and Mahkayla Mary (4). In addition to her part-time job at Pine Tree and caring for her family, Crystal is also a full-time student at University College in Bangor. She expects to finish her Bachelor's degree in the Science of Criminology in two years.

Crystal feels that the greatest inspiration in her life is her mother, who successfully raised four children, primarily as a single parent. Her mother's years of research into the family's background helped Crystal connect with her heritage as an off-reservation Native American. Her mother continues to inspire her by successfully running her own business, Grizzly's Cleaning Service. Crystal is also grateful to two professors at University College, Professor Mary Lewis Kurr and Professor James Davitt, for encouraging her and supporting her dreams of becoming involved with advocacy and the law.

Crystal's ambition is to attend law school once she has finished her undergraduate degree. At this point, she is considering a career as a prosecutor and would love to become a judge. An overriding dream, however, is

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Pine Tree Native



American Attorney To Visit Tribes In Connecticut


Craig Sanborn, the Native American Unit Staff Attorney for Pine Tree Legal Assistance, is scheduling a trip to Connecticut to meet with Tribal leaders and staff. The purpose of Craig's trip will be to help assess the needs of low-income Native Americans in Connecticut. He hopes to visit in March. If you would like to meet with Craig, please call him at 1-800-879-7463 to set up a meeting.





("Crystal" continued from Front Page)

to develop an organization to serve off reservation Native Americans, a group that Crystal feels is not being adequately served at the present time.



At Pine Tree, Crystal will help Maine clients in areas involving programs such as ASPIRE, food stamps, TANF, and SSI. She loves her work at Pine Tree and believes that her own life experiences have given her a great deal of insight into working with her clients. Crystal can be reached at **1-800-879-7463 or 942-0673**. You can e-mail her at **ctreadwell@ptla.org**. 

You May Be Able To Get More Money in Child Support

The following article is based on information provided by CABHN Fever, a publication of the Connecticut Alliance For Basic Human Needs.



If you

-  are working and need to pay for child care in order to work and
-  your child support order was issued before August 1999,

you may be able to get more money in child support.


Last August, the rules changed for figuring out how much a parent who does not have custody should pay for child support. Under the old rules, the weekly child support payments included an estimated amount for child care. The new rules treat child care expenses very differently.

Under the new rules, the parent who does not have custody must now pay part of the child care expenses. This amount must be paid **on top of** the regular weekly support payments. This additional amount is calculated based on the income of each parent. Child care expenses are now treated like medical bills. Once you have a receipt for the amount paid, you give a copy to the other parent and ask them to pay you their share.

If the other parent will not pay, you can ask the court to increase your support amount. The court can increase the amount to include the child care portion that the other parent needs to pay. To change your child support order, you must go to court and file a motion to modify your order. You may call Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380 to get more information about how to change your support order.



Example: You earn \$250 weekly and you pay \$80 per week for child care for your two children. The other parent, without custody, earns \$350 each week. Under the old rules, the other parent would pay \$130 per week in child support and nothing for child care. Under the new rules, the other parent will pay

\$123 a week in child support **and** \$30 in child care expenses. You are better off by \$23 a week, or almost \$100 a month. 

Pine Tree Legal Assistance

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 attorney Craig Sanborn, paralegal Crystal Treadwell, and is headed by Eric Nelson. Craig is a member of the Penobscot Nation. He joined the Pine Tree Staff in September of 1998. Crystal traces her roots to the Maliseet and Penobscot Tribes. She joined the Unit in November of 1999 after working with Pine Tree as an intern. 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**.



Native American Legal Briefs

In early January, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in a case about an attempt by the Mashantucket Pequot to extend the boundaries of their reservation. The Federal District Court's decision was noted in the Summer 1999 edition of this Newsletter (Volume 3, Issue 1). The article appears on the internet at <http://www.ptla.org/quinnehtukqut/ct5tribalbriefs.htm>

The case involves 165 acres that the Tribe owns across Route 2 from its 2,200-acre reservation and its Foxwoods Resort Casino. The Tribe had asked the Secretary of the Interior to take the land into trust. This would mean that the land would be treated as "Indian Country" outside state civil and criminal jurisdiction, exempt from state and local taxation, and exempt from state and local land use regulation.

In reaching his decision, the District Court judge looked at the language of the Mashantucket's Settlement Act. He concluded that the Tribe could not expand its settlement lands over the opposition of the State of Connecticut and the neighboring towns without Congressional approval. 

("Bureau of Indian Affairs" continued from Front Page)
In order to be get federal recognition, a Tribe asking for recognition has the burden to provide evidence that the Tribe meets what are known as the seven mandatory criteria. These criteria are:



- 1. The Tribe has been identified as an American Indian entity on a continuous basis since 1900. The type of evidence that can be used to meet this requirement includes showing that the Tribe has been identified by the federal government as an Indian entity; showing that a state government has treated the Tribe as an Indian Tribe; or identification of the Tribe by anthropologists, historians or other scholars.
- 2. Most of a petitioning Tribe is a community that has existed from historical times until the present. The type of evidence that meets this requirement includes showing significant social relationships between members; a significant degree of shared labor among members; or shared rituals.
- 3. The Tribe has had political influence or authority over its members since historical times. This requires showing that the Tribe can mobilize its members or its resources for group purposes; showing that most members consider that actions taken by the group leaders are important; or showing that there is widespread knowledge, communication and involvement in political processes.
- 4. The Tribe must provide a statement describing its membership criteria and governing procedures. (Continued on Page 4)



The **Quinnehtukqut Legal News** is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. 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.



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 | ★ Medicare |
| ★ Family Matters | ★ Medicaid |
| ★ Welfare | ★ 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 5:30pm-7:30pm, as well as Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm.



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 is slightly higher AND you have a disabled or elderly (60+ years) member of your household, you may qualify for the State Appropriated Fuel Assistance Program (SAFA).



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("Bureau of Indian Affairs" continued from Page 3)

- 5. The Tribe's membership must be made up of descendants from a historical Indian Tribe.
- 6. The Tribe's membership does not include a significant number of individuals who are members of an already acknowledged Tribe.
- 7. There has never been any congressional legislation that terminates or forbids a federal relationship with the Tribe or its members.



There are several steps that must be taken in the acknowledgement process by BIA and the petitioning Tribe. First, the Tribe asking for recognition must file a "documented petition." This is a detailed description of why the Tribe claims that it has had continuing existence as an Indian Tribe. It includes both a detailed explanation of how the Tribe meets the mandatory criteria and all the written evidence that will be used to show that the mandatory criteria have been met.

Next, BIA will review the petition. That review involves two steps. First, BIA will conduct a "technical assistance review." At the end of this review, BIA will tell the Tribe what additional information, if any, the Tribe should provide to BIA so that the petition can be "actively considered." Once the technical review has been completed and the Tribe has sent in the additional information asked for by BIA, the petition is ready for "active consideration" review. After active consideration, BIA will issue proposed findings. The Tribe and any interested third parties then have a chance to submit arguments and additional evidence to either support or disagree with the proposed findings. Once any additional arguments and evidence have been submitted, BIA will eventually issue a final determination. Under the changed procedures, these steps will still take place. However, the internal procedures used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to handle its review of a documented petition will change.



The regulations governing the recognition process give BIA broad authority to research a Tribe's petition "for any purpose." BIA has noted that that authority is optional, however. In the past, the staff of the BIA often conducted additional research, even after active consideration had started, to add to the research done by a petitioning Tribe. This meant that Tribes with very limited resources could rely on BIA to do a lot of the work in putting together a case for recognition.



Under the new procedures, the BIA "is not expected or required to locate new data in any substantial way." Staff research is to be limited to what is needed to "verify and evaluate" the materials presented by the petitioning Tribe or any third parties involved in the process. In the past, materials submitted

by a petitioning Tribe or third party were sometimes poorly organized and did not identify sources or even the nature of the documents provided. Now, BIA researchers "shall no longer expend more than a reasonable amount of time attempting to identify the source or sources of documentary materials."

In addition, BIA staff in the past has done its own extensive analyses of data submitted by a Tribe. For the future, the Staff has been directed not to perform its own analysis of unanalyzed information presented by a petitioning Tribe.

Once active consideration has started on a case, a petitioning Tribe will no longer be able to submit additional evidence to be considered. Also, staff members may not ask for additional information. If a Tribe submits data that has not been analyzed, BIA staff may not analyze the data itself. It must tell the Tribe to analyze the data and give the analysis to BIA after the proposed findings have been issued. Once active consideration has begun, therefore, a petitioning Tribe will only be allowed to present additional evidence or analysis *after* proposed findings have been issued.



There has always been a comment period allowed after proposed findings. Now, the comment period will be the *only* time for Tribes to submit additional evidence once active consideration has started. As in the past, a Tribe can submit new evidence during the comment period. That evidence can include any evidence that the proposed findings have identified as missing from the petition and necessary to support a finding that federal recognition should be granted. It will become very important for Tribes to provide that information.



The changed procedures also note that the acknowledgement decision itself will no longer be as detailed as it has been in the past. The decision is "not intended to be a definitive scholarly study of the petitioning group." Rather, the decision will only address whether the Petitioning Tribe has met its burden "to establish by a reasonable likelihood of the validity of the facts that it meets all seven [mandatory] criteria."

Finally, petitioning Tribes are reminded that the responsibility for preparing their case for federal recognition rests ultimately on their shoulders. The changed procedures conclude with the statement that "a petition can and will be turned down for lack of evidence."

The changed procedures were published in the February 11, 2000 edition of the Federal Register (Volume 65, Number 29, pages 7052-7053). You may also view these procedures on the internet at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-3161-filed





("Income Guidelines" continued from Page 3)

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 is, when added together, less than the income limits for assistance.

Annual Poverty Income Amounts to Qualify for CEAP

Family Size	100%	125%	150%
1	\$8,240	\$10,300	\$12,360
2	\$11,060	\$13,825	\$16,590
3	\$13,880	\$17,350	\$20,820
4	\$16,700	\$20,875	\$25,050
5	\$19,520	\$24,400	\$29,280
6	\$22,340	\$27,925	\$33,510

Income Limits To Qualify for SAFA

Family Size	Gross Income of More Than	And Less Than
1	\$12,360	\$16,480
2	\$16,590	\$22,120
3	\$20,820	\$27,760
4	\$25,050	\$33,400
5	\$29,280	\$39,040



Energy Benefits--Home Owners

Income as % of poverty level*	Basic Heat Benefit (Primary heat only; benefit paid to vendor) Vulnerable**	Basic Heat Benefit (Primary heat only; benefit paid to vendor) Nonvulnerable**
0%-100% (CEAP)	\$475	\$430
101%-125% (CEAP)	\$280	\$240
126%-150% (CEAP)	\$205	\$175
(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 11/1/99 through 3/15/00. 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.

If you use deliverable fuel (oil, propane, gas, coal, kerosene, and wood) and you use up all your heat benefits before March 16, 2000, you can get crisis benefits from CEAP or SAFA. The benefit is up to \$150 for each fuel delivery. More



safety net benefits may be available after that. If you get your heat from an electric or gas utility, you cannot use this program.

Other Places to go for Help:

- ★ **Fuel Banks:** Operation Fuel gives emergency energy assistance to people who are not eligible for CEAP or SAFA.. It will sometimes help with utility or energy bills not covered by CEAP or SAFA.. To apply, contact your nearest fuel bank. Call INFOLINE at 1-800-203-1234 to get the name of your nearest fuel bank.
- ★ **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:** Owners and renters who are low income can get free help with weatherization or conservation. This includes paying for services that will make your home or apartment more comfortable and reduce your energy and utility bills. If you are a renter, you must first get permission from your landlord. The amount of weatherization available will be greatly expanded starting in January, 2000. When you apply for energy assistance, ask for weatherization help. Call INFOLINE for more information.
- ★ **Arrearage Forgiveness Programs:** If you get energy assistance for your gas service, you may participate in this program. This program forgives back bills you owe based on the amount of payments you make and the amount of energy assistance you get. Apply for this program each November, or as soon after November as you can. Electric companies also have arrearage forgiveness programs, but they are not available to all low-income customers. Call your utility to see if there is a program for you.

- ★ **Hardship:** Low income "hardship" customers are entitled to have gas heat and electric service turned on between 11/1 and 4/15 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. If you are an electric customer, you are not required to make any payment in order to get service. However, this is a good time to set up an affordable payment arrangement. 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.





Claim Your Earned Income Credit and Child and Dependent Care Credit

If you worked in 1999, 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 1999 and your family earned less than \$26,928, you can get up to \$2,312.
- ✧ If you raised more than one child in your home in 1999 and your family earned less than \$30,580, you can get up to \$3,812.
- ✧ If you weren't raising a child, earned less than \$10,200 in 1999, and were between ages 25 and 64, you can get up to \$347.
- ✧ If you were raising children in 1999, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, **not** Form 1040EZ. **Be sure to attach Schedule EIC.**
- ✧ If you weren't raising children in 1999, 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.

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit. The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps you pay for child care you need in order to work or look for work. The credit is also open to you 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. 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 EIC even if you are earning too little to pay income tax.

You can claim this credit if

- ✧ You paid for care in 1999 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 1999 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.

If you are a worker with one or two children, the Credit amount equals the amount of your total federal income tax for the year, up to a maximum of \$500/child. If you have

three or more children, and you are claiming the Earned Income Credit, you may be eligible for an "Additional Child Tax Credit. Just complete IRS form 8812 to find out if you are eligible.

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.



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.



Expedited Food Stamps

In some cases you may be able to get food stamps within seven days. This benefit is called "expedited food stamps." Your DSS worker should ask you questions to see if qualify for this program.



You can qualify for expedited food stamps if

- Your monthly income is \$150 or less and you have \$100 or less in assets (cash or bank accounts) OR
- Your monthly rent and utility expenses are higher than your income and assets.

If you qualify, you only have to give proof of who you are. You can finish up all the other paperwork that is needed to get food stamps later (within the next month). You should get your first food stamp allotment within seven days of asking for food stamps.



*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.*

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.



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.....211

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

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

Danielson:

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

Middletown:

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...860-301-0030

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 Area860-886-0521

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:

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

New Haven.....203-974-8029

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

Bridgeport:

Greater Bridgeport Community

Mental Health Center.....203-551-7400

Hotline.....1-800-586-9903

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.....860-886-9302

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 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
(Serving Northwestern Connecticut).....860-482-7133
- ❖ Women's Emergency Shelter Sexual Assault
Crisis Service(serving greater Waterbury.....203-753-3613
- ❖ Sexual Assault 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

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.

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

60B Weston Street
Hartford CT 06120
Toll Free Telephone: 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:
1229 Albany Avenue
Hartford, CT 06112
Tel.: 860-566-7710

Southwest Region:
1057 Broad Street
Bridgeport CT 06604
Tel.: 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>
- ❑ Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:
<http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/>
- ❑ Native Links: <http://www.johnco.com/native/>
- ❑ Native Sense: <http://www.nativesense.com/>