

Quinnehtukqut Legal News



Volume 6 Issue 2

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

Winter 2003



Federal Recognition Update

On December 5, 2002, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued its Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgement of the **Schaghticoke Tribal Nation**.

The Proposed Finding stated that the Tribe did not meet two of the required criteria that it must meet to establish that it is an Indian Tribe within the meaning of federal law. The first criterion that the Tribe failed to meet was to show that most of its members are a community that has existed from historical times until the present. The second criterion that was not met was to show that the Tribe had had political influence or authority over its members since historical times.

The Proposed Finding noted that the Tribe had been recognized by the State of Connecticut. However, the Finding stated that there were

substantial periods of time, from the early 1800's until 1875 and from 1885 until the late 1960's, when the State did not deal with or identify formal or informal leaders of the Schaghticoke, and did not consult with members concerning issues which concerned the entire group.

This situation, according to the Finding, makes the Schaghticoke different from the Eastern Pequot Tribe, which was granted a Proposed Finding in favor of recognition earlier that year.

On January 21, 2003, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgement of the **Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe**.

This Proposed Finding stated that the Tribe did not meet three of the required criteria that it must meet to establish that it is an Indian Tribe within the meaning of federal law. The first two criteria were the same ones that the Schaghticoke were found not to have met. The third

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Pine Tree Can Help You File Your Taxes Electronically And Save!

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a partner in the **I-CAN Earned Income Credit and electronic tax return filing project** (<http://www.ptla.org/icanindex.htm>). If you are eligible for the Earned Income Credit, you can prepare your tax return on line and, if you choose, file it electronically. Just go to the web site listed above and follow the instructions.

The system makes it very easy to fill out your tax forms. Using this service means you will not have to pay for tax preparation and allows you to keep more income!! You can get your checks in three to four weeks if you file electronically and within a few days if you allow the IRS to deposit your money directly into your bank account!



Legislative Update

Bills Affecting Native Americans:

In January, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, **Bill No.7501**. That bill eliminates "Las Vegas Nights" and is intended to prevent more casinos being developed. It is expected that this bill will be challenged in the courts.

The following are proposed bills being considered by the Legislature this session:

- **Resolution No. 11.** This resolution would amend the state constitution to state that it is the public policy of Connecticut to prohibit gambling.
- **Proposed Bill No.262.** This bill would prohibit the use or conveyance of state land for a gambling casino.
- **Proposed Bill No. 5255.** This bill would require that any person filing a claim stating that land was originally owned or controlled by an Indian Tribe and was unlawfully transferred from the Tribe must provide a surety bond of five million dollars. The stated purpose of the bond is to protect against any devaluation of real property surrounding the land that is the subject of the claim.
- **Proposed Bill No. 5336.** This bill would eliminate state recognition of Tribes that do not have federal recognition and requires them, and any other group, to ask for state recognition through a Commission on Tribal Recognition.
- **Proposed Bill No. 5801.** This bill would eliminate the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council and replace it with a Commission on Native American Affairs.

General:

As of January 1, 2003 some new laws went into effect. A few that may be of interest are:

Public Act 02-33 - As of January 1, 2003 the minimum wage in Connecticut increased to \$6.90 per hour and as of January 1, 2004, the minimum wage will rise to \$7.10 per hour.


Public Act 02-7 - This act requires that an Alternative Base Period (ABP) be used in calculating Unemployment Compensation for the next 3 years. The ABP formula will be used if you are ineligible for unemployment compensation because you do not have sufficient earned income during the standard base period. This act requires that your wages from the most recently completed quarter be used if you are not eligible using the standard base period.



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criterion is that the Tribe's membership must be made up of descendants from a historical Indian tribe. The Bureau had issued Proposed Findings in 1995 declining to acknowledge the Paugussetts because they had failed to meet that same criterion. The Tribe requested reconsideration, which was granted, and filed a complaint under the Administrative Procedures Act asking the court to establish a date by which the Bureau would be required to issue its Findings. The parties reached agreement on the timing question. The January decision is the result of the reconsideration.

Both the Schaghticokes and the Paugussetts are allowed to file additional material with the Bureau to show that they do in fact meet the criteria where the Bureau believed that they fell short. The Mohegan Tribe's petition had been denied by the Bureau in a Proposed Finding before ultimately being granted.

Last fall, the Interior Department agreed to consider an appeal filed by Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal challenging the Bureau's decision to recognize the **Historical Eastern Pequots**. 

Statewide Legal Services Website: <http://slsct.org/>

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

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

Telephone Numbers To Call:

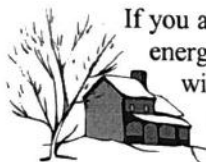
In the Middletown calling area: 1-860-344-0380

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

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

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

Energy Assistance



If you are low-income, you may be eligible for energy assistance. If your income falls within 0-150% of the federal poverty guidelines, (or 200% if you are elderly and/or disabled) or if you get cash assistance from the Department of

Social Services, you qualify for help from the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).

Apply for CEAP assistance at local Community Action Agencies. Call 1-800-842-1132 or INFOLINE at 211 for local sites. (You may also call these numbers to get any other energy information.) The application period is 11/1/02 through 4/30/03.

Here are some key points:

1. You may be eligible for benefits even if heat is included in your rent payment (if rent is more than 30% of household income).
2. Apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:

# in house	Annual income	Monthly income
1	\$13,290	\$1,108
2	\$17,910	\$1,493
3	\$22,530	\$1,878
4	\$27,150	\$2,263
5	\$31,770	\$2,648
6	\$36,390	\$3,033

3. If someone in the household is at least 60 years or disabled, apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:

# in house	Annual income	Monthly income
1	\$17,720	\$1,477
2	\$23,880	\$1,990
3	\$30,040	\$2,503
4	\$36,200	\$3,017
5	\$42,360	\$3,530
6	\$48,520	\$4,043

4. Contact your utility company about its arrearage forgiveness program if you owe the company money. This is a payment program that forgives back bills based on the amount of payments the household makes and the amount of energy assistance received.
5. Repairs or replacements of unsafe furnaces or furnaces that are not working are available to some households.
6. More weatherization assistance (making your home energy efficient) is available. Your Landlord's permission is needed.

Call Statewide Legal Services for free advice at 1-800-453-3320 or (860) 344-0380.

Be Aware of These Changes!

Benefits for households that heat with electricity or gas have been reduced. Last year, these households could get slightly higher benefits to make up for the fact that they are ineligible for the crisis assistance available to households heating with deliverable fuels (oil, propane, wood, coal). This year, those higher benefits have been eliminated. Benefit levels for lower income households will be the same as last year (except for the reduction mentioned above). But because state funding for benefits has been eliminated (federal funding is still available), it is more likely that the state will run out of funds before the program closes. Individuals or families who receive assistance from the state (TFA, AABD or State Supplement, SAGA or GA, or Food Stamps) who live with others who do not receive assistance may not be eligible for energy assistance this year. In the past, these low-income individuals could "carry" some energy assistance benefits with them when they doubled up.



More Winter Heating Assistance

The following information appeared in the February 2003 edition of *CABHN FEVER*. Website: www.larcc.org/

DSS has just announced that federal funds have been released to cover expanded winter heating assistance benefits to higher income households. Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) benefits are now available to households up to 60% of state median income (for example, monthly income up to \$2,150 for one person or \$3,474 for three people). The benefit amount will be the same this year as last year, a flat \$200 per household. Emergency furnace repair funds

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are available for homeowners eligible for energy assistance with household income less than 150% of the federal poverty level (for example, monthly income up to \$1108 for one person or \$1878 for three people).

Contact **Infoline at 211** or your local **Community Action Agency** to find the location of the nearest application site. The deadline to apply for energy assistance is April 30th, but the program may close down earlier if funds run out. Call to make an appointment to apply today to increase the chances of receiving this benefit.



How To Get Help If You Are Affected By the Closing of DSS Offices

The following information appeared in the February 2003 edition of *CABHN FEVER*. Website: www.larcc.org/

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has closed its regional offices in Ansonia, Bristol, Killingly, Meriden, Norwalk and Willimantic. As a result of a lawsuit brought by Legal Services organizations on behalf of clients affected by the closings, DSS has presented a written plan outlining how people in need of benefits or other DSS services, will be able to get them. The basic points in the plan are listed below:

- **Use mail and phone:** For clients in the towns affected by the office closings, as much business as possible will be conducted by phone and mail. Toll-free phone numbers to DSS offices will be available to clients in the affected towns and DSS will provide postage paid envelopes for mailings on request.
- **Waive required in-person interviews:** For many programs, there are provisions for waiving in-person interviews when the client can show good cause, as a result of disability, work schedules or transportation problems, for not being able to go to the office. These provisions have not been used very often in the past. For clients affected by office closings for the next three months, DSS workers have been instructed to accept the client's statement of inability to travel without further verification, and waive the in-person interview.
- **Use home visits or designated representatives:** When an in-person meeting is required and the client cannot go to the DSS office, a DSS worker will conduct a home visit or the client may designate someone to represent the client at the in-person.
- **Postpone redeterminations:** For clients in affected towns for the next three months, DSS will postpone required redeterminations where possible under program rules.
- **Contact Community Action Agencies:** Community Action Agencies in the affected towns have agreed to assist clients with disabilities who need help filling out forms, contacting DSS, faxing or copying documents and verifying identity for

Pine Tree Legal Assistance

www.ptla.org

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

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

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

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

expedited Food Stamp applications.

- **Establish Disability Assistance Help Line:** For people with disabilities, a special toll-free help line has been established. The number is **1-800-842-2159**. For people with hearing disabilities, the TDD/TYY line is **1-800-842-4524**.

If You Have Problems Using The New System, Contact Legal Services.

Affected Towns	Legal Help
Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton	Joanne Gibau (New Haven Legal Assistance): 203-946-4811 ext142
Avon, Canton, Simsbury, Farmington, Bristol, Burlington, Plymouth, Southington	Lucy Potter (Greater Hartford Legal Assistance): 860-541-5002
Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock	Shirley Bergert (CT Legal Services): 860-456-1761 or 1-800-413-7796
Meriden, Wallingford	Sharon Langer (ext 108) or Caitlin Simon (ext 106) (CT Legal Services): 860-2225-8678 or 1-800-233-7619
New Canaan, Wilton, Norwalk, Weston, Westport	Amy Marx (CT Legal Services, Stamford): 203-348-9216 (ext 106) or 1-800-541-8909 Or Nadine Nevins (CT Legal Services, Bridgeport): 203-336-3851 or 1-800-809-4434
Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Hampton, Mansfield, Scotland, Union, Willington, Windham, Willimantic	Shirley Bergert (CT Legal Services): 860-456-1761 or 1-800-413-7796

If you can't reach the individual listed immediately or aren't sure who to call, contact **Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320**. The judge in the lawsuit has indicated her willingness to review whether the plan is adequate if there is evidence of problems.



Free Tax Filing Help for Low-Income Taxpayers

If you worked in 2002 and are a low income wage earner, a legal assistance client or a housing authority resident, you are probably eligible for some tax credits. This could reduce what you owe or increase your refund. So file early and file for free!

Locations for assistance:

New Haven Legal Assistance,
426 State Street, New Haven, CT
203-946-4811
11:00 - 2:00
Saturdays: 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1 & 3/22

Valley Legal Assistance TEAM Offices,
30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT
860-736-5420
Every Friday 1:30 - 4:30
(except February 14th and April 4th)



Important Tax Information



Claim your Earned Income Credit



If you worked in 2002, 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 2002 and your family earned less than \$29,201 (or \$30,201 for married workers), you can get up to \$2,506.
- ** If you raised more than one child in your home in 2002 and your family earned less than \$33,178 (or \$34,178 for married workers), you can get up to \$4,140.
- ** If you weren't raising a child, were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2002, and earned less than \$11,060 in 2002, you can get up to \$376.
- ** If you were raising children in 2002, you must file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A and **must** fill out and attach Schedule EIC. **You cannot get the EIC if you fill out Form 1040EZ or fail to attach Schedule EIC.** Married workers must file a joint return.
- ** If you weren't raising children in 2002, file the return you would normally file (including the 1040EZ). Be sure to write "EIC" or the dollar amount of your credit on the Earned Income Credit line of your tax form. Do **not** file Schedule EIC.
- ** You don't have to calculate your own EIC. If you choose, the IRS will do it for you.



Questions & Answers About the EIC:



Which children qualify for the EIC?

The following children qualify:

- ✓ Sons, daughters, stepchildren, grandchildren, and

- adopted children
- ✓ Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, or stepsisters – as well as descendants of such relatives – if they were cared for as members of the family
- ✓ Other children may qualify as foster children, but only if they are placed with the worker by an authorized government or private placement agency
- ✓ Qualifying children must live with the worker for more than half of the year. (As of 2002, a full year is no longer required for foster children.) They must be under age 19, or under age 24 if they are full-time students. Totally and permanently disabled children of any age also may be qualifying children. Valid Social Security numbers are required for qualifying children born before December 31, 2002.

What if I don't know how to file a tax return?

To get free help filing your tax return and for more information about the Earned Income Credit, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Get FREE Help Filing Your Taxes!

VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for **free**. VITA sites are open from late January through April 15. 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.**

Five Helpful Changes to the EIC this Year

1. The EIC benefit has increased for married workers. Eligible married workers who were raising children and earned above \$13,520 in 2002 will get a slightly higher EIC than a single worker with the same income. Eligible married workers not claiming a child and with income above \$6,150, will also get slightly more than a single worker with the same

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income.

2. The residency requirement for foster children has been changed. In the past, a foster child had to have lived with you for 12 months in order to be a qualifying child. Now, foster children are treated like other children and must live with you for "more than half of the year."
3. Claims by custodial parents have priority. Under previous rules, if a parent and grandparent lived together and could claim the same qualifying child (because the child could be claimed as the child of one and the grandchild of the other) the person with the highest income got the credit. Now, the parent can claim the credit even if the parent's income is lower than the grandparent's. If the parent does **not** claim the credit, however, the grandparent may claim it.
4. Non-taxable income is no longer included as income for the EIC. In the past, non-taxable earned income, such as a housing and subsistence allowance for members of the military, were included in the calculation of how much earned income you had. Now, these types of income are not considered. *If you are affected by this change, you will be eligible for a larger credit than you received in the past.*
5. Your adjusted gross income will no longer be "modified" to calculate your income. In the past, EIC eligibility was based on your "modified adjusted gross income." This meant that certain things, such as business losses, were added back to your income. In some cases, this modified income would have been too high to claim the EIC. Now, those modifications have been eliminated and your EIC eligibility will be figured using only your adjusted gross income. If you were not eligible last year because your modified income was too high, you may be eligible this year.

Avoid Refund Delays!

Be sure to provide the correct name and Social Security number for each person listed on your tax return.



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

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

In 2003, you can qualify for an Advance EIC payment if you have at least one qualifying child and you expect

your 2003 income to be less than \$29,666 (\$30,666 if you are married).

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

In order to get the advance payment, just fill out a **W-5 form** called the "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate" and give the bottom part to your employer. You should be able to get the form from your employer. You can also get the form by calling **1-800-TAX-FORM** or you can download the form from the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. You can file a W-5 any time during the year, but you must file a new W-5 at the beginning of every year in order to continue getting advance payments.

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

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

Child Tax Credit Benefits Many Workers Receiving the EIC



The Child Tax Credit is now worth up to \$600 for each dependent child under age 17. In 2002, even families that earned too little to owe income tax can get the credit. This credit is different than the Child and Dependent Care Credit that helps workers who need day care in order to work.

To be eligible for the credit, you must be able to claim an exemption for a dependent child under age 17, have taxable income of \$10,350, and have either a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Immigrant workers with either type of number may be able to claim the credit. This credit does not affect your ability to take the EIC and will not reduce any benefits you can get from the EIC.

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

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Under a rule that was in effect until 2001, some low-income families with three or more children have qualified for an "Additional Child Tax Credit." For some families, the refund they would have gotten under the old rules would be larger than the amount they would get under the new rules. Form 8812 allows those families to claim the refund amount that is the higher of the two.



The Child and Dependent Care Credit

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit. The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps you pay for childcare you need in order to work or look for work. 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.

In the past, many low-income families could not take advantage of both the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Credit. That has changed. Now, you may find that the effect of the Child and Dependent Care Credit is to increase the amount of any refund you might be eligible for with the Child Tax Credit.

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 2002 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 2002 income. If you are married and filing jointly, the income of the spouse with the lowest income must be more than the amount you paid for care. There are special rules for figuring the income of a spouse who was a full-time student or disabled.

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

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



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



INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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



CRISIS SERVICES
(available 24 hours a day)



INFOLINE

Website: www.infoline.org

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.

211



Child Abuse and Neglect:

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-800-842-2288
TDD 1-800-624-5518



Domestic Violence:

Ansonia:

The Umbrella Project

860-892-7042

Avon:

Interval House

860-409-2583

Bridgeport:

Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.

203-384-9559

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 Area.....	860-886-2641
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 <i>Website: www.bghealth.org/vmhc/</i>	203-736-2601
Branford: Harbor Health Services	203-483-2630
Bridgeport: Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center	203-551-7507
Danbury: Danbury Hospital	888-447-3339
East Hartford: Intercommunity Mental Health Group	860-895-3100
Enfield: North Central Counseling Services	860-863-8068
Hartford: Capitol Region Mental Health Center <i>Website: www.dnhas.state.ct.us/crmhc/homepage.htm</i>	860-297-0999
Hartford: The Samaritans of the Capitol Region	860-232-2121
Manchester: Genesis Center	860-747-3434
Meriden: Crisis Stabilization Program	1-800-567-0902

Middletown: River Valley Services	860-344-2100
Middletown: Middlesex Hospital Crisis Assessment and Triage Service	860-344-6496
Milford: Bridges Community Support System <i>Website: www.bridgesmilford.org/</i>	203-878-6365
New Haven: Connecticut Mental Health Center <i>Website: www.dnhas.state.ct.us/cmhc/</i>	9am-10pm: 203-974-7735 10pm-8am: 203-974-7713 1-888-979-6884
New Haven: Campes	
Norwich: Southeastern Mental Health Authority <i>Website: www.dnhas.state.ct.us/smha/index.htm</i>	860-886-9302
Plainville: Wheeler Clinic <i>Website: www.wheelerclinic.org/</i>	860-747-3434 1-800-203-1234
Rocky Hill: Infoline	
Stamford: F.S. DuBois Center	203-358-8500
Torrington: Northwest Mental Health Authority	860-447-3339
Waterbury: Waterbury Hospital	203-573-6500
West Mystic: Contact of Southeast Connecticut Contact the nearest Youth Service Bureau through your town hall	1-800-848-1281



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



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:
Website: www.ctbar.org/public_for_the_public/lawyer_referral.shtml
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**
Website: /slsct.org/

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

◆ Bridgeport	Connecticut Legal Services Website: www.connlegalservices.org/index.htm	203-336-3851
◆ New Britain	Connecticut Legal Services	1-800-233-7619
◆ 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
◆ New Haven	New Haven Legal Assistance Website: www.nhlegal.org/index.htm	203-946-4811
◆ Hartford	Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc (serving Greater Hartford) Website: www.ghla.org/index.htm	860-541-5000

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Website: www.medicareadvocacy.org/

This organization gives legal advice, written materials and representation to elderly and disabled people denied Medicare coverage for home health care, skilled nursing facility care, rehabilitation and other health services. Services are free to residents of Connecticut. Telephone **1-800-262-4414**

Connecticut Legal Rights Project

Website: www.mindlink.org/clrp.html

This organization helps low-income adults who have or are perceived to have psychiatric disabilities. Its staff may also help clients to protect their civil rights in conservatorship and commitment proceedings or in discrimination in housing. Telephone **1-877-402-2299**

Connecticut Lawyer's Legal Aid to The Elderly

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

Children's Law Center

Website: www.clcct.org/

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

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

Website: www.cwealf.org/

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

Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients

Website: ctelderlaw.org

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

Disabilities:

Connecticut Office Of Protection and Advocacy For Persons With Disabilities

Website: www.state.ct.us/OPAPD

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; E-Mail: ctopapd@connix.com



Discrimination:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

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



Social Security:

Website: www.ssa.gov/

Statewide.....	1-800-772-1213
Website: 33abaca.ssa.gov/pro/foi/foi-home.html	
★ Ansonia.....	203-735-6201
★ Bridgeport.....	203-365-8452
★ Bristol.....	860-584-2716
★ Danbury.....	203-748-3569
★ East Hartford.....	860-290-5420
★ Hartford.....	860-493-1857
★ Meriden.....	203-238-0346
★ Middletown.....	860-347-8562
★ New Britain.....	860-229-4844
★ New Haven.....	203-773-5201
★ New London.....	860-443-8455
★ Norwich.....	860-886-7118
★ Stamford.....	203-359-0030
★ Torrington.....	860-489-1633
★ Waterbury.....	203-756-7476
★ Willimantic.....	860-423-6386

Some Helpful Native American Web Sites

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

