



State of Connecticut Department of Correction Drug Free Workplace Policy

The State of Connecticut is committed to winning the battle against substance abuse. Substance abuse jeopardizes a stable family structure, increases crime, impacts worker productivity, and presents a continuing and growing drain of government funds. For our youth, substance abuse is an especially serious threat. Drugs destroy their hopes and dreams and, all too often, their very lives.

The workplace is not immune to the influence of substance abuse. Worker safety, health and efficiency are adversely affected. Therefore, in harmony with Connecticut's three-pronged strategy of education, treatment and enforcement to combat substance abuse and in accordance with federal legislation, this Drug-Free Workplace Policy has been adopted. Connecticut State employee/Contractors will be protected and served by this initiative which includes an on-going substance abuse awareness program.

Effective March 18, 1989, the federal government enacted the "Drug-Free Workplace Act", (41 U.S. Code §§701 et seq.). This act requires that any employer receiving federal funding must certify that it will maintain a drug-free workplace. Among other things, the act requires that a policy be published notifying employees or those providing services that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of controlled substances is prohibited in the workplace. It also requires that certain actions be taken if this policy is broken.

It is the policy of the State of Connecticut that each employee/Contractor has a right to come to work and perform his or her job in an environment that is free from the illegal use of drugs. It is also in the interest of the State and the public that employees/Contractors be able to perform their duties safely and efficiently. The State is firmly committed to promoting high standards of health, safety, and efficient service. Thus, our goal is to maintain a work environment free from the effects of drug abuse.

It is the policy of the State of Connecticut that employees/Contractors shall not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use a controlled substance while on the job or in the workplace, or be under the influence of a controlled substance, not prescribed for him/her by a physician, while on the job or in the workplace. Any employee or service provider violating this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of the contract.

"Controlled substances" are specifically defined in federal law and consist of two classes of drugs: (1) those commonly thought of as "illegal" drugs; and (2) certain medications if not being taken under a physician's prescription or according to a physician's orders, which the federal government has determined have a potential for abuse, or are potentially physically or psychologically addictive.