



WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

The Victims' Voice

COURT SERVICES—COVID EDITION

Due to the COVID-shutdown in March, several court matters have been postponed. As the courts begin to resume operations, it is important to know what steps to take to practice your constitutional rights to be heard at plea and sentencing.

If your case was on the docket before the shutdown, reconnect with the State's Attorney's Office or the Victim Advocate that was assisting you prior to the shutdown. For court matters that occurred during the shutdown, cases may have been transferred to a different court-house. Due to the shutdown, the criminal courts will be facing a backlog of cases. You may not receive an immediate call back depending on the next scheduled court date of your case. You can find case information online at www.jud.ct.gov.

The right to be heard at plea and at sentencing

In the meantime, if you plan to make a statement to the court regarding a proposed plea agreement and/or at the sentencing hearing, now is a good time to start preparing your statement.

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OVA STAFF OFFER VIRTUAL TRAINING



Although current times have affected our ability to conduct in person training, the OVA has seamlessly transitioned to virtual training options. Over the summer we provided training for the Rotary Club, CT Children's Advocates, and the Department of Children and Families, highlighting the work of our agency and the rights of crime victims in our state.

Contact our office today if you are interested in hosting a training to learn more about our agency and the rights of crime victims.

“This undertaking will provide data-driven methods to understand victimization across the state, identify gaps in services and supports, and tailor them to meet the needs of victims and survivors”.

CT AIR NATIONAL GUARD S.A.R.T

The CT National Guard Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) are a group of dedicated advocates charged with helping and serving fellow National Guard members navigate services and systems in our state.

On November 2, 2020, the OVA provided training for SART. Topics covered in the training were the constitutional rights of crime victims, services available to crime victims in our state, and additional rights and protections for victims of sexual assault.

CJPAC-VICTIM ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission commonly referred to as CJPAC was established under Public Act 06-193. The Victim Issues Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission.

On October 21, 2020 the Council on State Government Justice Center, presented valuable information regarding the exploration and gathering of data to address victim services delivery in Connecticut. This meeting had representation from major community stakeholders and service providers who work daily with victims and their families.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services are leading the charge to conduct a victimization survey in 2021. This undertaking will provide data-driven methods to understand victimization across the state, identify gaps in services and support, and tailor them to meet the needs of crime victims and survivors.

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*State of
Connecticut
Superior Court
Stamford, CT*



CT VICTIM SERVICE AGENCIES

CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
www.endsexualviolencect.org

CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.ctcadv.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
www.madd.org/connecticut

Office of Victim Services Judicial Branch
www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim

Survivors of Homicide
www.survivorsofhomicide.com

COURT SERVICES—COVID EDITION

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The right to be heard at plea and at sentencing

Plea: Your statement should focus on why you think the plea agreement should or should not be accepted by the court. You may offer suggestions, such as an order of restitution, conditions of supervision or length of confinement, as part of your statement.

Sentence: Your statement should focus on how the crime has impacted your life and/or the life of your family, including emotional, physical, financial and psychological. Factors to consider may be any safety concerns you have, modifications you have been forced to make, injuries you sustained, changes in attitude you have experienced, etc.

The right to restitution

Now is the time to prepare for your restitution request. You will need copies of receipts, estimates or appraisals to substantiate your request for restitution. Your request for restitution, along with your documentation, will need to be submitted to the State's Attorney's Office to ensure the prosecutor is aware of your request.

The right to attend court proceedings

While the courts may be resuming operations, the COVID-19 threat is not over. It is important for you to be prepared to enter the court with new procedures. Bring only necessary items into the court. Bring your mask and/or gloves. Prepare for lines at security and leave yourself plenty of time to get in. Check the Judicial Branch website for updates notices. (See Resource list)

The right to communicate with the prosecution

As stated earlier, there will be a backlog of cases, therefore, it may take time for the prosecutor to speak with you directly. If there is information critical to the case, you can also speak with the investigator in the State's Attorney's Office or the Court Victim Advocate.

CT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION VICTIM SERVICE UNIT WELCOMES NEW SUPERVISOR

Ebonie Suggs has been with the Department of Correction (DOC) since 2010 where she began as a Correctional Counselor Trainee at Carl Robinson Correctional Institution working in a number of specialized housing units (intake/orientation, outside clearance and addiction services). After approximately four years, she transferred to Osborn Correctional Institution and primarily worked in the Community Release Unit. Ebonie was promoted to Counselor Supervisor in 2017 where she worked in the Offender Classification and Population Management Unit in the Assessment and Sentence Calculation and Interstate Management Units (S.C.I.M).

As of July 2020 the previous supervisor in this role, Kristan Mangiafico accepted a transfer to Northern Correctional Institution. "I had the privilege of joining Director Karen Martucci's team in the External Affairs Division. I am eager to work with and learn from others in the field of victim services".

NEW ELECTRONIC PROCESS FOR FILING ORDERS OF PROTECTION

The CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and CT Judicial Branch have implemented a new restraining order process in response to COVID-19, allowing victims to file an application for protection electronically. This new procedure to file applications for temporary restraining orders ("TROs") and civil protection orders ("CPOs") without having to physically go to the courthouse have proven to be helpful for many.

The TRO process is intended for persons who have a family, household, or dating relationship with the other party. The CPO process is intended for cases where there is no such relationship. Alt-

hough you may file for a temporary restraining order on your own, CCADV and CT Safe Connect are available to help with the application for a temporary restraining order.

For assistance, contact CT Safe Connect at www.CTSafeConnect.org or call (888) 774-2900. Advocates are available 24/7 by telephone, internet chat, or email.



THE CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

Beth Hamilton became the Executive Director of the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence in July 2020.

Beth has worked for the Alliance for ten years and has nearly two decades of experience working to end violence throughout the state of Connecticut including sexual violence, domestic violence, and violence against LGBTQ people and people with disabilities. Beth has been a leader in the development and implementation of statewide policies addressing and preventing sexual violence in Connecticut's K-12 schools, on college campuses, and within Connecticut's correctional system. Beth previously worked at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), Connecticut Women's Education & Legal Fund (CWEALF), and directly serving victims of sexual and domestic violence. Beth is dedicated to the prevention of violence, creating opportunities for survivor-lead advocacy, and movement building.

**CONNECTICUT'S
FIRST VICTIM ADVOCATE
JAMES F. PAPILO JR., JD, PHD
1953 - 2020**



In 1999, Gov. John G. Rowland appointed Jim as Connecticut's first State Victim Advocate and for eight years, Jim served as the head of the independent state agency

charged with protecting and promoting the legal rights of crime victims. Jim's legal work always focused on protecting those who were unable to help themselves. Along with a love of learning, Jim had an innate talent for passing this knowledge to others. Jim's diverse career included being Vice President of Administrative Affairs and Associate Professor in the Humanities at Holy Apostles College & Seminary in Cromwell, and enjoying private practice as a real estate attorney. A devoted husband, father, son and brother, his love of family and God was evident throughout his life. Jim was ordained a Catholic deacon in the Archdiocese of Hartford June 12, 2004 and served several area parishes.

Jim also had a passion for the arts which was seen in his photography, cooking, web design, and love of music—especially Jazz. Jim's family is proud of his countless accomplishments, steadfast love and devotion for God, and humble, contagious "can do" attitude to be whatever you want to be by working hard. Jim's positive impact has touched countless lives in many ways and his legacy lives on in all of us.

Deacon James F. Papillo Jr. JD, PhD passed away peacefully on March 21, 2020. A resident of West Hartford, Jim leaves his beloved wife of forty years Joanne (Scavetta) Papillo, their daughter, Jim's pride and joy, Stephanie Lynn & her fiancé David Cote, his mother Rose (Saponara) Coleman & stepfather Frank Coleman of Simsbury, brothers & sisters-in-law Steve and Kathy Papillo of Harwich, MA and Tony Papillo and Laura Ellis of West Hollywood, CA, along with many loved family members and friends.

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