



CONNECTICUT'S POLICY FOR A DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The State of Connecticut is committed to winning the battle against substance abuse. Substance abuse jeopardizes a stable family structure, exacerbates crime, threatens worker productivity and presents a continuing and growing drain of government funds. For our youth, substance abuse is an especially harmful 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 existing three-pronged strategy of education, treatment and enforcement to combat substance abuse, and in accordance with new federal legislation, the Drug-Free Workplace Policy has been adopted. Connecticut State employees will be protected and served by this new initiative, which includes an on-going substance abuse awareness program.

Effective March 18, 1989, the federal government enacted the "Drug-Free Workplace" Act. This act requires that any State agency which receives federal funding must certify that it will maintain a drug-free workplace. Among other things, the act requires that a policy is published notifying employees 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 has a right to come to work and perform his or her job in an environment that is free from the illegal use of drug. It is also in the interest of the State and the public that employees 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 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 violating this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

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



Connecticut' Policy For a Drug-Free Workplace Page Two

Employees must inform their agency's personnel administrator (or the person serving in the personnel role) within five (5) days of any drug conviction for violation of a state or federal drug statute if the violation occurred in the workplace. A conviction means a finding of guilty, including a plea of nolo contendere, or the imposition of a sentence by a judge or jury in any federal or state court. Within ten (10) days of receiving notice that one of its employees funded under a federal grant or contract has been convicted for a violation of a state or federal drug statute occurring in the workplace, the agency personnel officer must notify the appropriate federal granting or contracting agency.

Employees who have substance abuse problems are encouraged to participate in the Employee Assistance Program or a rehabilitation program prior to any disciplinary action. If an employee chooses not to undergo rehabilitation, the State will take disciplinary action consistent with collective bargaining agreements and State law and regulation.

Since it is a federal certification requirement that employees be notified of this policy, each employee will receive a copy of it. This policy will also be available at Agency Personnel Offices.