



CONNECTICUT CONSUMER PROTECTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 / Issue 4 / April 2025

SCAM ALERT

What it is: Jury Duty Scams

How it works: Scammers pose as a police officer or U.S. Marshal. They call, text or email claiming you missed your jury duty summons and threaten you with arrest if you do not comply by paying a fine. They often will ask you to pay immediately, over the phone, through a nontraditional payment platform in order to avoid arrest or other penalties.

How to protect yourself:

Always verify your jury duty summons on your local court's website or by calling their number directly. Never provide sensitive information to a stranger over the phone or by email. No court or agency will ever urge you to pay for something over the phone.

Spring Cleaning: Do you know what to do with your unwanted, unused or expired medications?

In the spirit of spring cleaning and in coordination with National Drug Take Back Day on April 26, we encourage you to take **30 minutes or less** to clean out the medicine cabinets in your home and those of your elderly family members.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) hosts “Drug Take Back Day” — a biannual initiative that encourages the public to properly discard unneeded medications at participating sites. While you can take advantage of drop-off locations all year round to safely dispose of expired or unused prescriptions and help prevent medication misuse and addiction, April is a good time to set a reminder for yourself.

A regular inventory of your medications keeps a safe and clutter-free medicine cabinet — while letting you know what medications need to be refilled for dire situations.

In 2012, Connecticut participated in its first Take Back Day, collecting over 3,600 pounds of medication. Last year, the state collected **65,584 pounds** across 116 drop boxes.

You can bring unwanted medication to participating police stations and pharmacies, anytime the business is open. A map of drop box locations is available on [DCP's Drug Control website](#).

Items that are accepted:	Items that are not accepted:
Over-the-counter-medications	Needles or other “sharps”
Prescription medications	Hazardous waste
Medication samples	Thermometers
Medication for household pets	Personal care products (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
Medicated lotions or ointments	

To dispose of needles or “sharps” ask your doctor, pharmacist or a medical supply store for a sharps disposal container and follow the instructions for proper disposal.



SPEAKING REQUESTS

Want DCP to speak to your organization, or table at your event? Contact Catherine Blinder at Catherine.Blinder@ct.gov to submit a request.

Contact Us

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

450 Columbus Boulevard,
Suite 901

Hartford, CT 06103-1840

Main Line: (860) 713-6100
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Consumer Complaint Center

(860) 713-6300

Toll Free: (800) 842-2649

8:30am-4:30pm

Email:

DCP.complaints@ct.gov

VISIT US ONLINE

CT.GOV/DCP

Medications should always be kept in the original container and never combined with other pills or capsules. Depending on the medication's instructions, it may need to be refrigerated. Bottles should never be stored in hot or humid areas, such as a bathroom medicine cabinet.

In addition to medication drop boxes, you can practice safe disposal at home with the following four steps:

1. **Combine** uncrushed tablets or capsules with an unappealing substance (soapy water, kitty litter, coffee grounds, etc.)
2. **Place** mixture in a sealed plastic bag
3. **Throw out** the bag in your household trash.
4. **Cross out** all personal information on the empty pill bottle or take off the prescription label.

Unused medication should never be flushed down a toilet, as it can be harmful to our lakes, rivers and streams.

Empty pill bottles should be placed in the trash, and never in your curbside recycling bin due to the use of #5 plastic. You can also donate empty pill bottles at select [drop-off centers](#).

For more information about safe disposal of unused medications you can [visit our website](#). Anyone with questions about drug disposal or would like to host a drug take back event at any time of the year, can contact DCP's Drug Control Division at dcp.drugcontrol@ct.gov.

Celebrate Financial Literacy Month by visiting the Federal Trade Commission at consumer.gov

April is Financial Literacy Month: a great time to check out the free resources at consumer.gov to help manage your money while protecting it from scammers.

At consumer.gov, you'll get the basics on managing your money and advice on:

- How to [protect your money and information](#)
- What to do [if you think you sent money to a scammer](#) or gave a scammer your personal information
- How to [protect yourself from identity theft](#)

You'll also find [videos](#) and free, one-page [handouts](#) to share with family, friends, and other groups you might be a part of — like your neighborhood association or church group.

And if you spot a scam, tell the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Have a tip we missed? A topic you want more information about? Send us an email at DCP.Communications@ct.gov.