

# **LEGAL SKILLS**

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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION

(Disponible en Español)  
ED-671 S  
REV. 9/06  
(CGS §9-23g)

### ■ YOU MAY USE THIS EASY FORM TO:

- register to vote in Connecticut
- change your name and/or address on current registration
- enroll in a political party or change party enrollment (Changing parties may result in losing rights in all parties for 3 months)

**IMPORTANT! Keep your voter record up to date**

### ■ TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN CONNECTICUT

#### YOU MUST:

- be a United States citizen;
- be a resident of a Connecticut town;
- be at least 17 years old (must turn 18 before election day); see section 1b below
- have completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a felony.

### ■ IF YOU MOVE:

You must fill out a new voter registration card if you have moved to a new town. Also, use this form to change address within town. (See section 1a and section 10 below)

### ■ QUESTIONS?

Call your local Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of the State at (800) 540-3764 or (860) 509-6100 (TDD, 800-303-3161)

### ■ REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill in *all* boxes that apply to you on this application.
2. Place a first-class stamp on the application card, fold, and mail it to the town hall where you live (or deliver it to your town hall or voter registration agency).
3. **You are not a voter until your application is approved by the Registrar of Voters.**
4. You should receive a confirmation within 3 weeks. If you do not, contact the Registrar in your town hall.
5. If (1) you submit this form by mail and (2) you are registering for the first time in town, you may wish to submit with this application your driver's license number or if none, the last four digits of your social security number; or (a) a copy of a current and valid photo I.D. or (b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address, in order to avoid additional I.D. requirements the first time you vote.

### ■ REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR NEW VOTERS:

**PRIMARY:** Your application must be postmarked by the **5th day before a primary** (OR received by your Registrar of Voters or a voter registration agency by the **5th day before a primary**). You may apply in person to your town clerk or registrar until 12:00 noon on the last business day before a primary.

**ELECTION:** Your application must be postmarked or received by a voter registration agency by the **14th day before an election** (OR you may register in person with your Registrar of Voters by the **7th day before an election**).

PLEASE USE PEN - PRINT CLEARLY

FOLD

<b>1a Check Boxes that Apply:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> New Voter Registration (Includes move to a new town)	<input type="checkbox"/> Address Change (within the same town)	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Party Enrollment Change
<b>1b</b> Are you a U.S. citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Will you be 18 on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		If you checked "NO" to either of these questions, do not complete this form.	
<b>2</b> Name of Applicant		Last Name		First Name	
Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.				Middle Name or Initial	
<b>3</b> Date of Birth (Month Day Year)		<b>4</b> CT Driver's License Number (If none, last 4 digits of Soc. Sec. No.)		<b>5</b> Address Where You Live	
				No., Street, Apt. #	
				Town _____ Zip _____ State Connecticut	
<b>6</b> If Different, Address Where You Get Your Mail (P.O. Box, etc.)			<b>7</b> Telephone Number (optional) ( )		<b>8</b> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>9</b> Do you wish to enroll in a political party? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. Name of party: <u>Republican</u> <u>Democratic</u> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO. I do not wish to enroll in a party at this time.			<b>10</b> NAME or ADDRESS CHANGE. Previous Voting Address (If none, write "NONE") No, Street, Apt # _____ Town _____ County _____ State _____		
Note: Declaring a party enables you to vote in that party's primary election, which is open only to party members. You may later choose to switch enrollment to or from a political party.			Name Under Which Registered (if different from above)		
<b>11</b> I swear or affirm that: • I am a U.S. Citizen • I live at the address shown in box 5 above • I am at least 17 years old • I have not been convicted of a disfranchising felony, or if so, I have been released from confinement and, if applicable, parole • The information provided here is true Signature _____ Today's Date: ____/____/____					<b>12</b> Would you like to work at the Polls on Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
NOTE: The particular social service office at which you register to vote, or whether you decline to register, remains confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.			<b>S</b> WARNING: If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and imprisoned for up to five years and fined up to \$5,000.		
THIS SECTION COMPLETED ONLY BY AGENCY R SPECIAL ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OR TOWN CLERK (Date Received by Agency)			THIS SECTION COMPLETED ONLY BY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS		
DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR		REGISTRAR INITIAL	APPLICATION IS HERE BY:		DATE NOTICE MAILED
			<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOTICE RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE		
DATE ENROLLMENT EFFECTIVE IF CHANGING PARTY			REASON FOR REJECTION		

PLEASE TAPE - DO NOT STAPLE

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

\_\_\_\_\_ TOWN HALL  
Name of Town

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_, CT \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Zip

# ESTADO DE CONNECTICUT INSCRIPCIÓN DE VOTANTES

ED-671 S (sp)  
REV. 5/09  
(CGS §9-23g)

## USTED PUEDE UTILIZAR ESTE FORMULARIO

### SENCILLO PARA:

- inscribirse para votar en Connecticut
  - cambiar su nombre y/o dirección en el registro de electores
  - inscribirse en un partido político o cambiar su inscripción en un partido (al cambiar de partido usted podría perder sus derechos en todos los partidos durante 3 meses)
- ¡IMPORTANTE! Mantenga actualizado su registro de votante

## PARA INSCRIBIRSE PARA VOTAR EN CONNECTICUT

### USTED DEBE:

- ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos;
- ser residente de un pueblo de Connecticut;
- tener por lo menos 17 años de edad (usted puede votar cuando cumpla 18 años); vea la sección 1b abajo;
- haber completado su encarcelamiento y libertad condicional si fué previamente condenado por un delito grave.

## SI SE MUDA:

Usted deberá llenar una tarjeta de inscripción como nuevo votante si se ha mudado a un nuevo pueblo o ciudad. Además, use este formulario para cambiar de dirección dentro de un pueblo o ciudad. (Vea la sección 1a y la sección 10, abajo)

## ¿PREGUNTAS?

Llame a su Oficial de Registro de Votantes local o a la Secretaria del Estado, al (800) 540-3764 o al (860) 509-6100 (TDD, 800-303-3161).

## INSTRUCCIONES DE INSCRIPCIÓN:

1. Llene todos los encasillados que apliquen en esta solicitud.
2. Coloque sello de primera clase sobre la tarjeta de solicitud, dóblela y envíela por correo al ayuntamiento del lugar donde vive (o preséntela a su ayuntamiento o a la oficial de registro de votantes).
3. **Usted no es un votante hasta que su solicitud sea aprobada por La Oficial de Registro de Votantes.**
4. Usted deberá recibir una confirmación dentro de las próximas 3 semanas. Si no la recibe, contacte al funcionario del Registro de Votantes de su municipio.
5. Si (1) envía este formulario por correo y (2) usted se está inscribiendo por primera vez en un pueblo o ciudad, tal vez desee presentar, junto con esta solicitud, su número de licencia de conducir, o si no tiene, los cuatro últimos números de su número de seguro social; o (a) una copia de una identificación con foto actual y válida, o (b) una copia de una factura de un servicio público actual, estado de cuenta bancaria, cheque del gobierno, cheque de pago o un documento del gobierno que tenga su nombre y dirección, a fin de evitar más requisitos de identificación la primera vez que vote.

## PLAZOS DE REGISTRO PARA NUEVOS VOTANTES:

**PRIMARIAS:** Su solicitud debe tener un matasello fechado a más tardar el 5° día previo a una primaria (O recibido por su Registro de Votantes o una agencia de registro de votantes a más tardar el 5° día previo a una primaria). Usted puede hacer la solicitud en persona al secretario de su municipalidad o al funcionario del registro de votantes hasta las 12:00 del mediodía del último día de negocio antes de una primaria.

**ELECCIONES:** Su solicitud debe tener un matasello fechado a más tardar el 14° día previo a una elección (O puede inscribirse personalmente con su Registro de Votantes a más tardar el 7° día previo a una elección).

¡AQUI --- POR FAVOR USE UN PLUMA - ESCRIBA EN LETRA DE MOLDE CLARAMENTE --- DOBLE AQUI

1a Marque los Encasillados Que Apliquen:  Inscripción de un Nuevo Votante (incluye la mudanza a un nuevo pueblo o ciudad)  Cambio de Dirección (dentro del mismo pueblo o ciudad)  Cambio de Nombre  Cambio de Inscripción en un Partido

1b ¿Es Usted Ciudadano de los E.E.U.U.?  SI  NO ¿Tendrá usted 18 años el día de la elección o antes?  SI  NO Si usted marcó "NO" en alguna de estas dos preguntas, no complete este formulario.

2 Nombre de Solicitante: Sr. Sra. Sta. Sra./Sta. Apellido Nombre Segundo Nombre o Inicial Jr. Sr. II III IV

3 Fecha de Nacimiento / / 4 Número de Licencia de Conductor de CT (si no tiene uno, los últimos 4 dígitos del N° de seg. soc.) 5 Dirección Donde Vive No., Calle, Apt. Pueblo Zona Postal Estado Connecticut

6 Si Diferente, Dirección Donde Recibe la Correspondencia (P.O. Box, etc.) 7 Teléfono (opcional) ( ) 8 Sexo  Masculino  Femenino

9 ¿Desea inscribirse en un partido político?  SI. Nombre del Partido: \_\_Republicano \_\_Democrático Otro:  NO. No deseo inscribirme en un partido en este momento. Nota: Declarar un partido le permite votar en la elección primaria de ese partido, que está abierta solamente a miembros del partido. Usted puede elegir más adelante cambiar su inscripción a un u otro partido político. 10 CAMBIO DE NOMBRE O DIRECCIÓN. Dirección Donde Votaba Anteriormente (Si ninguna, escriba "NINGUNA") No, Calle, Apt. Pueblo Condado Estado Nombre Bajo el Cual Estaba Inscrito (si es diferente al de arriba)

11 Yo, juro o afirmo que: Soy ciudadano de E.E.U.U. Vivo en la dirección indicada arriba en el encasillado 5 Tengo por lo menos 17 años No he sido condenado por un crimen que me prive del derecho a votar o, si ha ocurrido, he sido puesto en libertad del encarcelamiento y, si corresponde, de la libertad condicional. La información provista aquí es verídica. Firma Fecha de Hoy: / / 12 ¿Le gustaría trabajar en un lugar de votación el día de las Elecciones?  SI  NO

NOTA: La oficina de servicio social específica en la cual usted se inscriba para votar, será confidencial y se usará solamente con el propósito de la inscripción electoral. **S** ADVERTENCIA: Si usted firma esta declaración aún sabiendo que no es cierta, puede ser convicto e ir a prisión por un máximo de cinco años y recibir una multa de hasta \$5,000.

ESTA SECCIÓN SERÁ LLENADA SOLAMENTE POR LA AGENCIA (O UN SECRETARIO ESPECIAL DEL REGISTRO DE VOTANTES O FUNCIONARIO DE LA MUNICIPALIDAD) (Fecha de Recepción en la Agencia)	ESTA SECCIÓN SERÁ LLENADA SOLAMENTE POR EL FUNCIONARIO DEL REGISTRO DE VOTANTES
DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR	REGISTRAR INITIAL
DATE ENROLLMENT EFFECTIVE IF CHANGING PARTY	REASON FOR REJECTION
APPLICATION IS HERE BY:	DATE NOTICE MAILED
<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOTICE RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE	

POR FAVOR CERRAR CON CINTA ADHESIVA - NO ENGRAPAR

De: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COLOCAR  
ESTAMPILLA  
AQUÍ

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

\_\_\_\_\_ TOWN HALL  
Nombre del pueblo o ciudad

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dirección

\_\_\_\_\_, CT \_\_\_\_\_  
Pueblo/ciudad Código postal



anyone who looks younger than twenty-seven. If you're caught violating the law, you and any adult involved can be prosecuted.

Even if you don't smoke or chew tobacco, breathing second-hand smoke has proven to be a health hazard. Consequently, many public buildings across the nation offer smoke-free environments or separate no-smoking sections. If you're caught smoking in a restricted area, you may be cited. If you're also underage, you'll receive a second citation.

Teenagers often think it's okay to light up because their parents and friends smoke. Some parents approve of their children smoking, and some even buy cigarettes for them. If you or a friend is in this situation, take a look at the statistics and decide for yourself if your health and future well-being are worth the risk.



#### American Cancer Society

1-800-227-2345

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

Call the toll-free number to be connected with the American Cancer Society office nearest you. Call or go online to get information about the Great American Smokeout® program, how to get help quitting smoking, and information about cancer treatment and prevention.

#### American Lung Association

1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872)

[www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)

Contact the American Lung Association for information about lung health, smoking, air pollution, current national research reports, and much more.

#### Arizona Department of Health Services Tobacco Education and Prevention Program

[www.teppp.org](http://www.teppp.org)

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Program's goal is preventing tobacco use, especially among children.

## “How old do I have to be to smoke?”

Tobacco—whether it takes the form of cigarettes, snuff, or smokeless (chewing) tobacco—is a subject of great concern to adults and teens. Several states are suing the tobacco industry to recover the rising costs of health care blamed on smoking. Tobacco companies are under pressure from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the dangers of nicotine, its relationship to lung disease and other respiratory ailments, and its addictive properties.

In most states, you must be eighteen to smoke and buy tobacco products. A 1997 FDA ruling requires stores to ask for photo identification before selling cigarettes or chewing tobacco to

- An estimated 3,000 children begin smoking each day. 1,000 of them will die from a tobacco-related illness.
- Between 1991 and 1994, the percentage of eighth graders who smoke rose from 14 to 18%.
- Tobacco smoke contains at least 43 cancer-causing substances.
- One out of 5 high school seniors is a daily smoker.
- Smokers lose an average of 15 years of life.
- A 1997 survey of 16,000 teens ages 14–19 found that 26% (about 6 million teens) had tried cigars during the past year. Cigars contain as much as 40 times more tar and nicotine than cigarettes.

Sources: *Congressional Quarterly Researcher*, December, 1995; American Lung Association, New York, NY; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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**The BADvertising Institute**

[www.badvertising.org](http://www.badvertising.org)

The powerful images at this site will make you think twice about cigarette advertising and motivate you to quit smoking (or never start).

**GottaQuit.com**

[www.gottaquit.com](http://www.gottaquit.com)

Research on smoking, information on the ways tobacco companies mislead teens, and support and ideas for quitting.

**Nicotine Anonymous**

Nicotine Anonymous World Services

449 Main Street, PMB #370  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
(415) 750-0328

[www.nicotine-anonymous.org](http://www.nicotine-anonymous.org)

Check the white pages of your local phone book for a group near you. You can also find a meeting in your area by visiting the Web site and searching by state. Offers support toward eliminating nicotine from your life.

**NoTobacco.org**

[www.notobacco.org](http://www.notobacco.org)

Find research on the effects of smoking, fake smoking ads, and tips for quitting.

## “When can I have a beer?”

You must be twenty-one in most states to buy or drink beer, wine, or any alcoholic beverage. If you break the law and are caught

drinking, you may be fined and given community service hours to complete. The person who sells or gives you alcohol may also be prosecuted.

in California, you must be 21 before eating any candy, cake, cookie, or chewing gum that contains alcohol.

Even if you aren't legally *intoxicated* (your blood alcohol level is over your state's limit), you can still get into trouble for being *under the influence* of alcohol. This means that you aren't legally drunk, but your senses are affected. You may find yourself in dangerous situations and unable to make good choices when you have drugs or alcohol in your system. Poor decisions made under the influence may have a drastic impact on the rest of your life.

Between concerned family members, school, and community events, you've probably heard a lot about the dangers of alcohol, and the statistics speak for themselves. The medical facts are equally clear: alcohol damages your brain cells, inflames the stomach lining, kills liver cells, blocks memory, dulls your senses, and has been linked to birth defects in infants.

- Over 4 million teenagers in America have serious problems with alcohol.
- Approximately 30% of boys and 22% of girls classify themselves as drinkers by age 12.
- 28% of high school seniors are “binge drinkers,” consuming 5 or more drinks at a time.
- Every year, over 3,000 teenagers are killed in drunk-driving crashes.
- Most teenage passengers are killed in accidents with teen drivers.
- Every 26 minutes, someone is killed in an alcohol-related accident.

Sources: National Safety Council; Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD)

**Al-Anon and Alateen**

1-800-344-2666

[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

Al-Anon is a worldwide organization that provides support to families and friends of alcoholics; Alateen is for younger family members who are affected by someone else's drinking. Request their free packet of teen materials.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

AA World Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

(212) 870-3400

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Since its founding in 1935, AA has helped millions of men and women around the world to stop drinking.

**American Council on Alcoholism Helpline**

1-800-527-5344

Referrals to alcohol treatment programs nationwide and educational materials.

right to be taken care of by them. The legal consequences of emancipation are the same as though you were eighteen.

A teenager becomes emancipated in one of two ways: either by a court order (if your state has an emancipation law) or by certain other circumstances. **Not** all states have emancipation laws. Some states with emancipation laws include Alabama, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. If your state has an emancipation law, take a look at the law and follow its requirements, and the court will either grant or deny your request for emancipation. For example, you may have to show the court that you have a job, live on your own, and pay your bills, and that your parents don't claim you as a dependent on their taxes. The court may then declare you a legally free teenager. Your lifestyle is taken into consideration in determining whether you're emancipated or not.

"Unemancipated minors . . . are subject as to their physical freedom, to the control of their parents or guardians . . . they lack the right to come and go at will."—U.S. Supreme Court (1995), *Vernonia School Dist. v. Acton*

If your state doesn't have an emancipation law, you still may become legally free from your parents before you're eighteen. If you join the armed services or get married, you're considered independent of your parents. Most states acknowledge your independence if either of these events occur before you reach the age of majority.

Teenagers who run away or are kicked out of their homes aren't legally emancipated. Their parents may still be held responsible for their actions and will continue to have authority over them.\*

Responsibility shifts from your parents or guardians to you once you're emancipated. You still may not have all the rights and privileges of adulthood (being able to vote, enter into contracts, buy property, etc.), but the experience of living independently while you're sixteen or seventeen will be a learning experience in preparation for your complete independence.

\* See Chapter 7, pages 140-141.

## "When will I be an adult?"

Anyone under the age of eighteen is referred to as a *minor*, a *child*, a *juvenile*, or an *adolescent*. The term used depends on the situation. Once you turn eighteen, you're legally an *adult*, with all of the rights and obligations of adulthood.

Turning eighteen, or the "age of majority" (in most states), entitles you to complete independence—in most situations. You can enjoy the freedom to move away from home, buy a car, work full-time or travel, marry, vote, and join the armed services. In other words, major decisions about your life are yours to make.

"Constitutional rights do not mature and come into being magically only when one attains the state-defined age of majority. Minors, as well as adults, are protected by the Constitution and possess constitutional rights."—U.S. Supreme Court (1976), *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth*

This is not to say that your parents are automatically excluded, especially if they continue to support you. There's nothing magical about turning eighteen. The legal rights you now enjoy are balanced with certain obligations and responsibilities.

## "What does emancipation mean?"

At some point before your eighteenth birthday, you'll probably think about being free—that's *emancipation*. But what does it mean exactly? What are the legal consequences of being "free" from your parents? Are there any drawbacks to emancipation before you turn eighteen?

An emancipated person is legally free from his or her parents or legal guardian. This means that your parents are no longer responsible for you or your actions, and you no longer have the

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**“When can I vote?”**

It wasn't that long ago that the right to vote in this country became universal. In your parents' lifetime, millions of Americans

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were prevented from voting. Some states had what was called a *poll or head tax*. Adults who wished to vote were required to pay a tax, so those who couldn't afford the tax were unable to vote. Literacy tests were also required, and those who couldn't pass the test were denied the right to vote. Between 1964 and 1966, both the poll tax and voter registration tests were eliminated as unconstitutional. The Civil Rights Act of 1965 and the U.S. Supreme Court opened the door to full voter participation by all U.S. citizens.

In 1971, the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed. It granted all citizens eighteen years of age or older the right to vote. This applies to you and is without any restrictions. You merely need to register where you live and exercise your right by voting at every opportunity. This is one of the greatest rights Americans have. It allows us to choose our leaders and speak our minds on the issues before us—but not just on a national level. Don't think of local, city, town, or county elections as insignificant or unimportant. Decisions made by these elected officials affect your life, too.

Information about how and where to register to vote is available at your local elections office or post office. A registrar might also be available to come to your home. California has "high school voter weeks," when you may register to vote at school during the last two weeks of September and April. Take advantage of this kind of registration opportunity, then vote when elections are held. If you know in advance that you'll be on vacation or away from your voting precinct on election day, arrange for an absentee ballot. Your local elections office or registrar will help you.



Kids Voting USA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that enables children and teens to visit official polling sites on election days and cast

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their own ballots on the same issues and candidates the adults are voting for. Speakers are available to come to your school and address civics and social studies classes. To date, 41 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Kids Voting USA network. For more information (and to find out if your state is a member), contact:

**Kids Voting USA**

Superstition Office Plaza  
3933 McClintock Drive, Suite 505  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
1-866-500-VOTE (1-866-500-8683)  
[www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org)

## “Will I get drafted?”

Throughout U.S. history, young men have been called for military service. From colonial times through the Vietnam War, eligible males over eighteen have been drafted. In 1973, the government ended the draft, replacing it with a “stand-by draft” for men and voluntary service for men and women. All males, within thirty days of their eighteenth birthday and continuing up to age twenty-six, are required to register with the Selective Service System. This rule doesn’t apply to women. Registration provides the government with a list of men to call up for service in the event of a national emergency. Failure to register is a crime with a penalty of five years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.

Men and women may join the army, navy, air force, marines, national guard, or coast guard. If you’re interested, contact your local recruiter. He or she will give you complete information about enlisting, including benefits, length of service, and education and travel opportunities. If you’re thinking of a career in the military as an officer, contact the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; or the Army’s U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, for information.

You may not be eligible to join the armed services because of your age. Not all branches will take you if you’re under eighteen, unless you have your parents’ consent or you’re emancipated. You may also need your high school diploma or GED certificate to enlist. Some branches won’t take you if you’re on probation or parole, or if you have a juvenile record. You may need to ask the court to destroy your record, which will clear the way for your enlistment.\* These are all questions to discuss with your recruiter.

If, by reason of religious training or belief, you object to military training and service, you may be excused from active duty. A *conscientious objector* is protected by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill

of Rights. You must still register with the Selective Service System, but you may be permitted to serve through noncombat civilian service. Discuss this with your parents before deciding what to do.



### Selective Service System

P.O. Box 94638  
Palatine, IL 60094  
(847) 688-6888

### U.S. Air Force Academy

Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5151  
(719) 333-1818  
[www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)

### U.S. Military Academy

West Point, NY 10996  
(845) 938-4011  
[www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)

### U.S. Naval Academy

121 Blake Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402  
(410) 293-1000  
[www.nacdn.navy.mil](http://www.nacdn.navy.mil)

\* See Chapter 8, pages 170-171.

## Chapter 6

# You and Other Important Rights

*"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."*

Martin Luther King, Jr., American civil rights leader and Nobel Prize winner

Laws regulate many aspects of your life—from how late you can stay out at night to whether you can sign a contract or cross the border. This chapter addresses these and many other types of rights, including the rights of gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens. You'll even read about a fifteen-year-old whose lack of telephone etiquette took him to the U.S. Supreme Court and changed the way juveniles across the nation are treated in the criminal justice system.

### "Can I sign a contract?"

Most transactions today are put into writing, whether a lengthy legal contract or the fine print on a ticket stub or a store receipt. Putting an agreement in writing—between two people, two companies, or a person and a place of business—provides a record of the agreement. Everyone feels safer this way, particularly if one side doesn't follow through. But not all contracts need to be in writing to be valid. Some jobs may be done on an "as-needed" basis, and

Before you sign any document, read it carefully. Take the time to be sure you understand the terms. The fact that you're a minor may not excuse you entirely from having to comply with the contract should you later decide you want out.

no formal contract is involved. Once the work is done, payment is due. The law recognizes this type of informal agreement. Yard work, baby-sitting, and neighborhood car washes are examples.

A *contract* is defined as an agreement to do something for someone in exchange for something else. It may be between individuals, businesses, or governments. If one side fails to fulfill its part of the agreement, it's known as breaking the contract, or *breach of contract*. Generally, as a teenager, you may sue another person or business if you've been harmed or injured. Most states require that a parent, guardian, or other adult join in the lawsuit with you. Breaking a contract is a civil wrong, meaning that your case is filed in a civil, not criminal, court. The amount involved, whether \$10 or \$1,000,000, dictates the court where you'll file your lawsuit.

As a teenager, you may be able to enter into certain types of contracts. Your local laws tell you what kinds and under what circumstances. You may need to have a parent co-sign the contract with you. A cosigner is fully responsible if you back out of the contract or are unable to fulfill the terms.

If you're married and therefore emancipated,\* you may be eligible to enter into other contracts—for example, the sale or purchase of a car or house. You can also obtain medical care and treatment for you and your spouse. That may require your signature on a medical agreement, which is a type of contract.

## “Can I get out of a contract?”

The laws about contracts and minors aren't the same in every state. Because of your age and lack of business experience, you may be allowed to get out of a contract you sign. This is called

*disaffirming* a contract, and it means you may refuse to honor its terms. The law recognizes that some businesses engage in unfair practices. Teenagers and young adults are frequent targets of scam artists and aggressive marketing campaigns.

To learn what legal protection you have, refer to your state's laws. Ask your librarian for help, or call your district attorney or attorney general's office and talk to a member of their consumer protection staff. The office may have a pamphlet to send you regarding your rights as a consumer.

In the United States, there's a “Cooling-Off Rule,” also called the “Door-to-Door Sales Rule.” If you buy something that costs more than \$25, you have three days to cancel the purchase. The sale must take place in your home or away from the seller's regular place of business—for example, at a home party, at a restaurant, or in a rented room. The rule doesn't cover mail or telephone orders, or sales at arts and crafts fairs. Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for specifics on how to cancel a sale and deal with any problems.



**Federal Trade Commission**  
Office of Consumer Education  
Washington, DC 20580  
(202) 326-2222  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

Request the “Cooling-Off Rule” information sheet. Or download the PDF:  
[www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buying/cooling.pdf](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buying/cooling.pdf)

If you sign a contract with an adult cosigner, you may be able to disaffirm the contract, but the cosigner remains responsible. Not all contracts you enter into may be disaffirmed. If you've obtained products or services and fail to pay for them, the provider may take you to court and might possibly involve your parents. This includes purchases involving food, clothing, lodging, and medical care.



Other large-ticket items that you've contracted for—a car, sports equipment, or stereo—may or may not be disaffirmed. You may be able to return the item without any payment to the store, or you may be required to pay for its use or any damage.

**A note of caution:** Before you make any out-of-the-ordinary purchase or enter into a purchase agreement, take some time to think it through. Discuss your plans with an adult, and carefully read the contract before you sign it. If you don't understand something in the contract, ask for clarification. If the salesperson is uncooperative or acts confused, walk away from the situation. If the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Finally, always get a copy of the contract you sign.

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**“What will happen to me  
if I get caught shoplifting?”**

**Scene One:** After school, Julie, Colin, and Matt stop at the local store for a snack and something to drink. Julie is by herself for a few seconds, and she slips a pack of gum into her pocket, knowing that she doesn't have enough money to pay for all of the items she wants. She pays for her chips and drink and leaves the store with her friends.

LS-7

**Scene Two:** Julie, Colin, and Matt only have 60 cents between them. They stop at the store, and while Matt keeps the car running, Julie and Colin enter the store. While Colin distracts the clerk, Julie puts a six-pack of beer in her backpack. They leave the store and begin to party at a nearby park.

**Shoplifting** is defined as taking property that's displayed for sale, without paying for it. It's a crime with both civil and criminal consequences. It's also a crime that requires *intent*. If you were shopping and put something in your pocket, continued shopping, went to the checkout, and paid for everything but the item in your pocket, you could be questioned about your intentions. If it turned out that you had the money to pay for the item and didn't act or look suspicious during the incident, you would probably be allowed to leave. Otherwise, you could be held for further questioning or for the police.

Scene One above presents a different picture. Julie knew that she didn't have enough money for everything she wanted, so she stole the gum and paid for the rest. This is shoplifting, and since her friends didn't know or play any part in the incident, they would be free to go if caught by the store owner.

Scene Two is your classic "beer run," where all involved know exactly what's happening and what their role is. Just because Julie took the beer doesn't mean the others won't be prosecuted if caught. Under the law, anyone aiding a crime shares full responsibility, just as if he or she had actually committed the act. Julie, Colin, and Matt could all be charged with shoplifting and possession of alcohol.

In many jurisdictions, a store can collect a civil penalty, plus the cost of the item taken, from the shoplifter or his or her parents. For example, the civil penalty for the stolen six-pack could be \$100, plus the retail cost of the beer.

In Washington, if you don't pay your restaurant bill, your parents may be responsible for up to \$500.

If you shoplift, the police may send their report to the local prosecutor, who decides whether to file charges. If filed, you'll be in

court facing possible detention or probation. First-time shoplifters usually go through a diversion program, which includes counseling, community service hours, and restitution. If you're caught a second time, probation may be considered, with specific terms set by the court. If you continue to steal, it's possible you'll receive detention or placement with the state department of juvenile corrections.



### Cleptomaniacs and Shoplifters Anonymous

1-800-848-9595

Call to request printed materials or audiocassettes for a

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## “What is trespassing?”

“Do Not Enter,” “Private Property,” “No Trespassing.” You’ve probably seen these signs on vacant lots, wooded areas, abandoned houses, or near factories. *Trespass* is defined as entering or remaining on someone’s property without permission. If there’s a sign posted (whether you see it or not), or if you’ve been told by the owner not to be on the property, this is considered adequate notice. Disregarding these rules can result in a charge of trespass, which is a misdemeanor.

It’s not always necessary to post a “No Trespassing” sign. If the owner of the property or a security officer tells you to leave and not return, that’s notice enough. If you return, you’re trespassing.

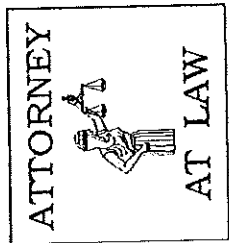
If you’re disruptive at a mall and a security guard tells you to leave and not return, you must do so. As long as you’re not excluded based on race, gender, religion, or disability, the restriction placed on you is valid.

Other places that are off-limits include mines, railroad cars and tracks, and fenced commercial yards.

If a property is fenced, it’s a good indication that you need permission to be there. This includes fenced property in rural areas where you might want to hunt or target practice. Places that aren’t as obvious include your neighbor’s yard or pool, school grounds when school is out, or church property and parks when they’re closed. Someone’s car or garage are off limits, unless you have permission. If you’re ever in doubt about whether you’re trespassing,

- In **Hawaii**, no minors are allowed in dance halls where paid partners are available.
- If you’re caught peeking into someone’s window in **South Dakota**, you’ll be explaining why to a judge.
- If you’re under 16 in **Washington**, you must be with a parent or guardian at an outdoor music festival. If you’re not, you could be charged with trespassing and/or a curfew violation, depending on the time of day.

## Five Situations When Hiring an Attorney Should Be Considered



The small claims court system is designed to be a user-friendly, no-experience-necessary type of process. However, certain situations justify the hiring of an attorney. Regardless of what your personal, preconceived notion of attorneys might be, and despite what jokes you might indulge in at their expense, you will have no greater appreciation and respect for what they can do for you than when you really need one. So, consider the following five scenarios that could justify hiring an attorney.

1. When proving your case requires the expert testimony of professionals and or subject matter experts in specific fields such as medicine.
2. When your case has been transferred/removed to a court of "superior" jurisdiction. In this case, having an attorney familiar with the rules of procedure and evidence is highly recommended.
3. When proving your case where fraud is the basis.
4. When there is much at stake and taking a chance is risky. Not spending a little money on legal fees can sometimes prove to be an unwise decision.
5. When, after considering your options, you just don't want to attempt it on your own. If you are the type that gets nervous talking to people or you think that you will become angry and violent while explaining your case to a judge, then consider hiring an attorney.

## What Happens After You File Your Claim?

After you have completed your *statement of claim or complaint*, the clerk will send a copy to the constable, marshal, or sheriff to be served on the defendant(s). A summons will be attached to the claim, which simply states that the party is being sued. The person/defendant being served with the summons has, depending on the state and local rules, between ten and thirty days to respond. If they fail to respond in time, a judgment will be taken against them. In essence, by not responding, the defendant has lost. If, on the other hand, the person cannot be located for whatever reason, you, as the originator

of the claim, will be notified by the court. At this point, it will be up to you to find another address or location where the summons can be served. The decision to pursue the matter any further is entirely up to you at that point.

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# **YOUR RIGHTS WHEN ARRESTED**

## **ARRESTED**

### 1. *When Are You Under Arrest?*

Under Connecticut law, a police officer may make an arrest without a warrant under a variety of circumstances, most notably when the arresting officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an offense has been committed, or is in the process of being committed. As a consequence, the majority of arrest involving crimes that do not take place in the home are conducted without a warrant ever being issued.

Since most arrests take place without benefit of a warrant, it is important to know when an arrest has actually occurred in order to invoke the many important rights triggered by the act of arrest.

As a general rule, you are arrested whenever a law enforcement officer takes you into custody or otherwise deprives you of your freedom of movement in any significant way. In fact, you may be under arrest even though no one has actually used the word "arrest" or any comparable word. The fact that you have been deprived of your freedom of movement in some significant manner may amount legally to an arrest.

Under some circumstances a citizen has a limited power to conduct an arrest.

### 2. *May a Law Enforcement Officer Detain You Without Arresting You?*

Based upon reasonable suspicion that you may be involved in criminal activity, a police officer may detain you and require you to identify your self and explain your whereabouts at a particular time without arresting you. The officer may not, however, remove you from the immediate vicinity without making an arrest unless you voluntarily accompany the officer to some other location.

If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that you are armed or that you may be dangerous to him or her or others, the officer may conduct a limited pat-down of your outer garments for the purpose of detecting weapons. If this "frisk" results in the officer's reasonable belief that you are carrying a weapon, the officer may remove the suspicious object for the purpose of protecting him or herself. The officer must return to you any lawful object unless you are placed under arrest. Unless you are under arrest, the frisk or search is limited to the suspects weapons.

The officer may ask you some questions in order to complete the field investigation. You have a constitutional right not to answer them, but it is nonetheless advisable to provide your name and address, as your failure to do so may suggest to the officer that criminal activity is afoot. More-over, there is an infraction law requiring you to produce your license and registration to an officer when he or she stops a motor vehicle you are operating.

At the conclusion of the temporary detention, the officer must either arrest you or let you go. Ordinarily, such temporary detention should not exceed 20 minutes.

If you should enter a retail establishment where goods are placed on display for sale, the merchant or employees may detain you on the premises for a reasonable time for questioning if they have probable cause to believe that you have stolen or have attempted to steal goods for sale. Under such circumstances a police officer called to the scene may make an arrest for shoplifting even though an alleged offense was not committed in his or her presence.

### 3. *What Are Your Rights After You Have Been Arrested ?*

An arrest triggers a number of constitutional protections which must be afforded by the arresting

officer.

You have the right to know the crime or crimes with which you have been charged.

You have the right to know the identity of the policeman with whom you are dealing.

You have the right to communicate by telephone with your attorney, family, your friends, or a bondsman after you have been brought to the police station and booking procedure are completed.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney at all critical stages of your case, including police questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you free of charge provided you qualify under existing guidelines as an insolvent person.

Remember, constitutional rights may be waived or given up voluntarily. Before you say or sign anything that might result in a waiver of a constitutional right, make sure you consult with an attorney.

#### 4. *What Rights Do You Have When Questioned By Police ?*

It is essential to understand that you are under absolutely no compulsion to co-operate with the police in any way should they begin questioning you about a crime for which you have been arrested, or any other crime.

You have an absolute right to remain silent. If you choose to speak, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court. If you decide to answer any questions, you may stop at any time and all questioning must cease.

You have the right to consult with your attorney before answering any questions.

You have the right to have your attorney present if you decide to answer any questions, and if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you or appointed for you by the court without cost to you, before any further questions may be asked.

#### 5. *What should You Say ?*

The simple answer is that you should not say anything to anyone concerning any aspect of the offense with which you have been charged except, of course, to your attorney. You cannot be legally required or forced by a police officer or anyone else to talk, to answer questions, or sign any papers. If by threats, by persistent questions, or by other means of coercion, you are forced to give incriminating information, its use against you can be prevented in court.

Certain official parties, such as the bail commissioner, may, in the course of their duties, inquire as to certain aspects of your conduct in connection with the allegations being made. Politely refuse to respond until you have had a chance to talk to an attorney.

You may be required to provide certain non-testimonial evidence. In particular, you may be required to participate in a lineup, to prepare a sample of your penmanship, to speak phrases associated with the crime with which you are charged, to don certain wearing apparel, or give a sample of your hair. You should ask to have an absolute right to counsel if you are asked to participate in a lineup, after you have been formally charged by the prosecuting attorney.

You may also be required to be fingerprinted and photographed.

#### 6. *How Do You Arrange For a Lawyer ?*

If you do not know a lawyer in the area where you have been arrested and have no lawyer in your home town whom you would call, you may contact your county or city Bar Association for the name of an attorney on the lawyer referral list. Any attorney you contact will be happy to discuss fees with you and give you some idea of the cost involved. Normally, you have a right to a written fee agreement that outlines the basis of the fee and the scope of the matter to be handled by the attorney.

If you cannot afford a private lawyer, you should advise the judge of this fact at your first appearance or as soon as after that is possible. The judge will ask you some questions to see if you

are eligible for the services of an attorney at public expense. You will probably be asked to make a sworn statement as to your inability to afford a private attorney.

## ***Release After Arrest***

Except for an arrest to an extremely serious offense, e.g. capital offenses, the Connecticut and United States Constitution provide that in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have a right to be released on an amount of bail which is sufficient to assure your appearance in court. Bail is generally defined in some type or amount of security that releases the arrested person and insures that person's future attendance in court.

If you are arrested for a less serious offense, for example a misdemeanor where the penalty may be one year or less in jail, the police officer may give you written summons and complaint and allow a less restrictive form of release, such as a promise to appear or a non - surety bond, and give you specific date to appear in court. If you are arrested on a more serious offense, such as a felony, which is punishable by more than a year in jail, or if the police officer feels that you will not appear in court, the officer will take you to the police station. At the station, the police officer may use any of the forms of release procedures outlined below.

Types of release procedures are as follows :

1. ***Written Promise To Appear In Court***

A. **with non-financial conditional**

B. **without conditions**

This allows arrested person to be released upon their that they will appear in a court the specific date scheduled.

2. ***Non - Surety Bond***

This is a promise by you to pay a specified amount if you fail to appear at court on your scheduled trial date.

3. ***Surety Bond***

This is a specific monetary amount set to insure your appearance in court on a specific date. This specific amount of money can be posted to insure your release. This amount may be paid by cash posted by you, your relatives or friends. If your relatives or friends cannot provide enough money to meet the amount of money of the surety bond, you may contact a professional bondperson(s) to provide surety for that amount. The bondperson(s) charges a fee for posting of the bond. The amount of fee is established by law. The bondperson(s) may also require some type of security for posting of that bond, such as a car, house or other property. Names of bondperson(s) are available at the police station and you have the right to contact one.



These methods of release are available to insure your release at the police station. If at the police station, the police do not release you on a promise to appear in court, a non-surety bond, or you cannot obtain funds or a bondperson(s) to post a surety bond, you then have a right to be interviewed by a bail commissioner. They are required by statute to notify the bail commissioner of your inability to post the bond set by them. The bail commissioner is a court employee whose job it is to afford arrested persons an opportunity to be released from jail if unable to post the bond set by the police, provided that he or she is convinced that you will appear in court. He or she can recommend that the police change their decision and release you on a promise to appear, a non-surety-bond or a surety bond in a smaller amount. The bail commissioner's recommendation is still subject to being overruled by a state's attorney if challenged by the police. The bail commissioner can also leave the police's decision the same if he or she thinks it is reasonable. Since the bail commissioner is a state employee, you do not have to pay a fee.

You cannot be denied bail under our Constitution. This means that, if the police or the bail commissioner do not release you on a promise to appear or a non-surety bond, then they must then set an amount for a surety.

If, after the bail commissioner's interview, you still cannot meet the terms of release, you will be held at the police station and brought before the court on the next available day for a review of bond. There are procedures established to conduct a review of the circumstances of your arrest as they relate to the bond set by the police or the bail commissioner. You will not appear before the court if it is within this non-court session review.

Once before the court, you or your attorney can present to the court to reduce the amount of the surety bond or allow you to be released upon the promise to appear or non-surety bond. The factors which the police, bail commissioner, and the court consider in your release decision are:

- 1. Your Tie to the Community**

(This means how long you have lived in the area, whether you have a steady job, a family and similar matters. These will give the police, bail commissioner or court an indication as to whether you will appear in court);

- 2. Whether the Safety of any Other Person will be Endangered by your Release;**
- 3. Nature of the Offense With Which You are Charged;**
- 4. Your Prior Criminal Record; and**
- 5. Your Prior Record of Appearances in Court.**

Additional, the Connecticut Legislature has adopted a preventative detention law that authorizes a judge to revoke your existing bail and deny you bail under certain circumstances.

In certain circumstances, the court may allow you, your relatives or friends to post 10 % of the bond with the clerk's office. This amount of money is returnable at the conclusion of the case as long as you appear for each court date. In addition, the court may allow you to post real estate as security for your release. These procedures are only available with the courts approval, and the posting of a real estate bond usually requires the assistance of an attorney.

No matter how you are released, if you do not appear in court, a warrant for your arrest will be issued and you can be charged with an additional crime of failure to appear. If you do not appear in court and you have posted a bond, you or the bondperson(s) may have to pay the amount of the bond to the state.

## ***Your Appearance In Court***

Your first appearance in the court is called an arraignment, at which time you have the right to have an attorney represent you. If you do not have an attorney at that time, the prosecutor or the judge will continue your case to allow you obtain counsel. If you are unable to afford an attorney, you should seek out the Public Defender's Office which is staffed with attorney's. If you financially qualify for their services, the court will appoint a public defender as your attorney. The fee for the Public Defender's services is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which fees can be waived under certain circumstances. While at the courthouse, use caution when speaking to anybody about the case, because anything you say to anyone except your attorney can be used against you.

For those people who have never been convicted (found guilty) of a crime, there are a number of programs available for first-time offenders. Please be advised that all of these diversionary programs are discretionary with the court after a hearing on the case. You may, therefore, wish to consult with an attorney before applying for a particular program. The following four (4) programs represent some, but not all, of these pretrial diversionary programs:

### **1. Alcohol Education Program**

If you are charged with Operating While Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, and you have never been convicted of Operating Under the Influence in Connecticut or any other state and you have never previously used the Alcohol Education Program, then you may be eligible for the Alcohol Education Program. This is a one year program with required classes and possible counseling. A

non refundable fee is required to participate in this program. If this program is successfully completed, the charges will be dismissed.

**2. Accelerated Rehabilitation**

If you are charged with a crime(s) not of a serious nature, and you have never been convicted of a crime in this state or any other state and have not utilized certain other diversionary programs, you may be eligible for the Accelerated Pretrial Rehabilitation Program, which is a pretrial program, carrying a period of probation of up to two (2) years. A non-refundable fee is required to participate in this program. If successfully completed, the charge(s) will be dismissed.

**3. Family Violence Education Program**

If you are charged with a domestic violence offense, you should check with the Family Relations Office in order to determine whether you qualify for the Family Violence Education Program, a program of up to two (2) years with an education component, which could keep you from a criminal record if successfully completed. With respect to any of these programs, it is solely within the discretion of the judge hearing your case as to whether or not you are a suitable candidate for the particular program and you may wish to have an attorney represent you. All three programs, if granted and thereafter successfully completed, enables the defendant to apply for dismissal of the charges. However, once you have used a particular program, you are forever barred from using it again.

**4. Community Service Labor Program**

If you are charged with the possession of marijuana or possession of narcotics, and you have never before been convicted of certain drug offenses, then you may be eligible for the Community Service Labor Program. If granted, the applicant must agree to perform community service with an approved, non-profit charitable organization. If the program is successfully completed, the possession charge will be dismissed. There is a limitation on the availability of this program.

**5. Youthful Offender Status**

If you are a youth between the ages of 16 and 17, you may be eligible for Youthful Offender Status. If adjudged a youthful offender, you would not be convicted of a "crime". You could, however, be committed to prison and / or pay a fine for being a Youthful Offender. If you successfully completed a court imposed sentences as a Youthful Offender, the court may erase the record of your arrest and prosecution when you reach age 21.

## **RECORD OF ARREST**

If you are found not guilty of a charge for which you are arrested, or the charge is dismissed by the court, the law requires that all records of your arrest and prosecution be "erased" twenty (20) days after the dismissal. This does not mean the records are destroyed, but the clerk of the court and the police may not give information about your arrest to anyone. If the prosecutor "nolles" a charge for which you were arrested (that is, if he or she decides not to prosecute the case), all records of your arrest are also "erased," but not until 13 months after the nolle has entered.

# Description of Juvenile Court

## Dependency Process

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### How a Case Gets to Court

The Dependency process begins when someone reports suspected child abuse or neglect or when a minor left without support as result of parents' incarceration/institutionalization, or parent unwilling to provide care.

An investigation is done by the Department of Social Services and if it is believed that the child's safety requires court protection, a petition is filed to declare the child a dependent of the Court.

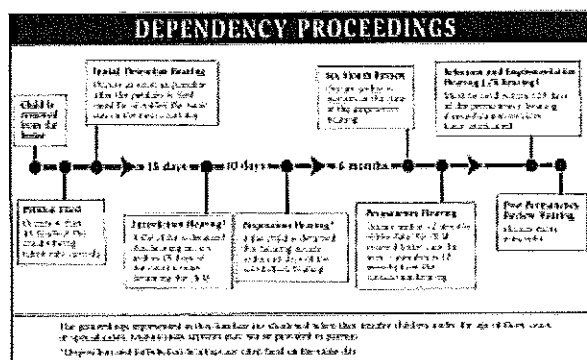
**Basic reasons minors may become Dependents are:**

- Minors suffering, or having substantial risk of suffering, serious physical harm inflicted nonaccidentally by parent/guardian.
- Minors suffering serious physical harm or illness, due to failure of parent to adequately supervise/protect minor, or negligent failure of parent to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment, or inability of parent to provide regular care due to parents' mental illness, developmental disability, or substance abuse.
- Minors suffering serious emotional damage (severe anxiety, depression, aggressive behavior toward self/others) as result of conduct of parent.
- Minors suffering sexual abuse by parent, or parent fails to protect minor from sexual abuse.
- Minor left without support as result of parents' incarceration/institutionalization, or parent unwilling to provide care.

If reunification with the family is not possible, the Juvenile Court shall order an appropriate permanent plan for the minor's care such as adoption.

### Outline of the Juvenile Dependency Process

Below is a graphical representation of the court process:



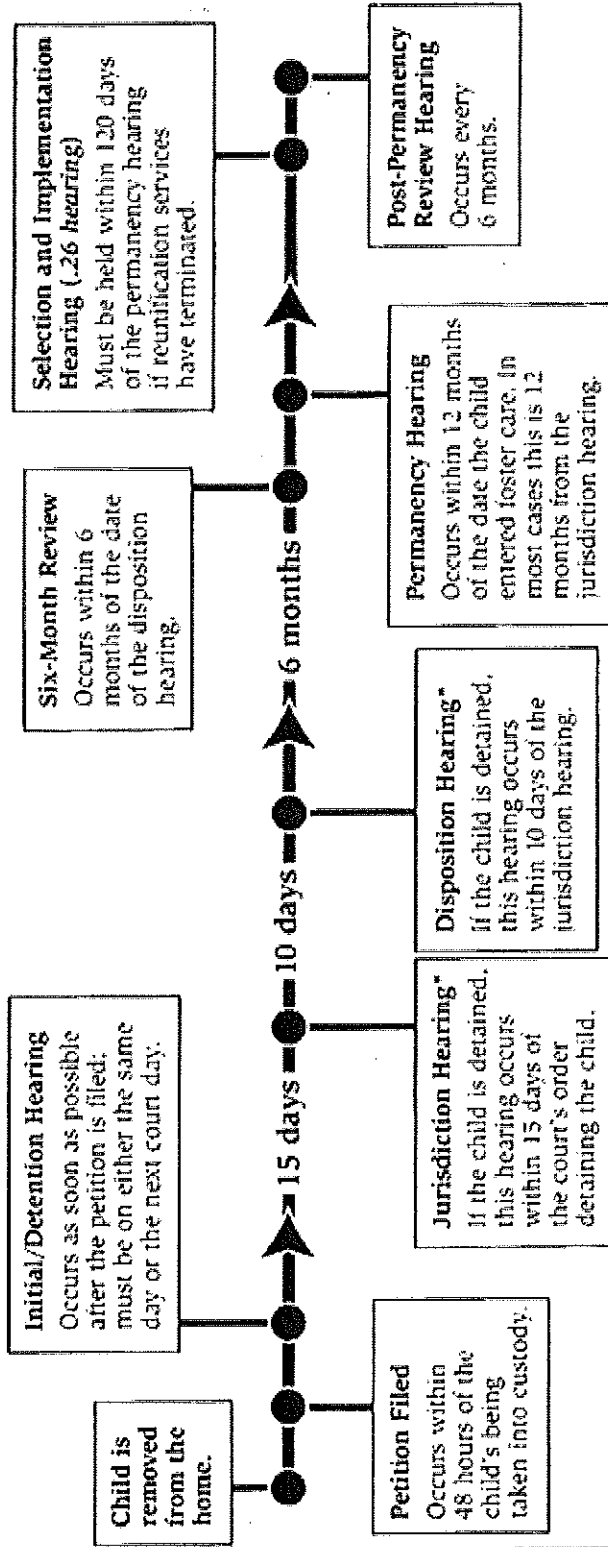
(Click to Enlarge)

- **Child is removed from the home.**
- **Section 300 Petition Filed**
  - Occurs within 48 hours of the child being taken into custody. An investigation is done by the Department of Social Services and if it is believed that the child's safety requires court protection, a Section 300 petition is filed to declare the child a dependant of the Court.
- **Initial/Detention Hearing**
  - Shortly after a child is removed from a parent, the juvenile court holds an initial court hearing, sometimes called the detention hearing. This hearing is the court's first chance to hear about the situation that brought the family to the attention of the Department of Social Services. At the initial hearing, the judge decides whether the child's safety requires that she be removed from her home until legal proceedings take place on the allegations of abuse or neglect, and whether she should stay in the temporary custody of the Department of Social Services. This hearing happens as soon as possible after the child is removed from her home, and before the end of the next court day after the petition is filed.
- **Jurisdiction Hearing**
  - The child's parents have a right to a trial on the allegations of abuse or neglect charged against them. At this hearing, the court receives evidence and determines whether the allegations of abuse or neglect are true. If true, then the court sustains, or upholds, the petition. To do this, the court must determine whether the child fits one of the descriptions in Welfare and Institutions Code section 300, which authorizes the court to intervene for a child's protection. The jurisdiction hearing must be held within 15 days of the court's order detaining the child.
- **Disposition Hearing**

- If the juvenile court finds at the jurisdiction hearing that the child was abused or neglected, the court may decide to make the child a dependent of the court.
- If the court declares that the child is a court dependent, the judge then decides whether the child should remain with a parent or be legally removed from the parents' care. If the child is removed from the parents, the court then considers who should care for the child. The court must consider relatives as the first placement alternative. If placement with a relative is not possible, the child is usually placed in a foster home.
- In most cases, the court orders a reunification plan for the parents so that the child can return home. A reunification plan describes the responsibilities and duties of both the social services department and the parents to remedy the problems that caused the child's removal. At the disposition hearing the court can also make orders about visitation, issue restraining orders, and make any other orders the judge finds are in the best interest of the child.
- **Six Month Review Hearing**
  - The juvenile court must review the cases of all children placed in foster care at least once every six months. At the first review hearing, information is given on the parents' progress with their reunification plan (court ordered services) and on how the child is doing in foster care. The court may return the child to his home or may order that the child continue to live in a foster home.
- **Permanency Hearing**
  - A permanency hearing must be held within 12 months of the date the child entered foster care. The court will decide if the child can safely be returned home or if efforts to reunify the child with her birth family should end. In some cases, the court may decide to continue trying to reunify the family. It is important to remember that terminating reunification services does not terminate parental rights. The child's parents are often able to continue visits and other involvement with the child even if the court terminates reunification services.
  - If the child cannot return home, another permanent plan will be selected at the permanency hearing. That plan could be adoption, legal guardianship, or another planned, permanent living arrangement. The preferred choice is the most permanent home possible for the child, so the court considers first adoption and then legal guardianship. If neither of those options is possible or neither is in the child's best interest, then the judge orders another planned, permanent living arrangement.
- **Selection and Implementation (or .26) Hearing**

- Within 120 days of termination of reunification services for the child's parents, a Selection and Implementation Hearing must be held. (This is sometimes called the *.26 hearing* because the law governing it appears in Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.26.) The county social worker prepares a report for this hearing that includes information about the child and a preliminary assessment of whether the child is likely to be adopted, and may identify any prospective adoptive parents.
- At the selection and implementation hearing, the court can permanently terminate parental rights and order that the child be placed for adoption. **If no adoptive home has been identified, the court can order adoption as the permanent plan and order the county social worker to find an appropriate adoptive home for the child.**

# DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS



The proceedings represented in this timeline are shortened when they involve children under the age of three years. In special cases, reunification services may not be provided to parents.

\*Disposition and jurisdiction hearings are often held on the same day.



# ACTIONS AGAINST THE LAW

## **Absolute discharge**

In certain circumstances, when the court has found a person tried to be guilty, instead of sentencing, it may make an order discharging them absolutely. This is competent where the offender is convicted on indictment, or where he is charged before a court of summary jurisdiction with an offence which the court is satisfied he committed. In either case the court must be of the opinion, having regard to the circumstances, that it is inexpedient to inflict punishment.

## **Absconding from justice**

e.g. failure to appear for trial.

## **Accused (see Pannel)**

A person charged with the commission of a crime or offence.

## **Acts of Adjournal**

Acts made by the High Court of Justiciary which contain rules for regulating court procedure.

## **Admonished (also: Admonition)**

If a person is found guilty, and the offence is considered trifling, or there are special circumstances associated with the accused or the offence, the court may dismiss the person with an admonition.

## **Advocate Depute**

Advocate appointed by the Lord Advocate to assist him and the Solicitor General in the discharge of their functions. Also known as Crown counsel.

## **Aggravated assault (examples of indictments):**

- Assault to injury/ to severe injury/ to injury of the person/ to permanent disfigurement/ to the effusion of blood/ to the danger of life/ by cutting and stabbing
- Indecent assault (see Rape)
- Assault with intent to ravish (see Rape)

## **Appellant (see Court of Criminal Appeal)**

A person who appeals to a higher court against the decision of a lower (inferior) court.

## **Art and part**

Acting in the capacity of an accessory or accomplice.

## **Assault (also: assault with attempt to rob; assault and robbery etc.)**

Any act of violence or attack on the person, including an attack threatened.

## **Assize**

List of potential jurors.

## **Assoiized (Assoiized simpliciter)**

To free, or to be absolved of guilt.

**Avizandum (Latin)**

When a judge decides to take time to consider a case, reach a decision and write the judgement, the court is said 'to make avizandum'.

**Bail**

When a person charged with a crime applies to the court for liberation on bail. The prosecutor is entitled to be heard, and to seek a refusal of bail. The crimes of murder and treason are notailable.

**Bail bond forfeited**

Failure of the accused to appear for trial and bail bond retained by court.

**Banishment**

Banishment, either from Scotland or from a county, was a sentencing option available to the courts until the early 19th century.

**Base coin (also: Contravention of 2 Will. IV, c. 34; 24 & 25 Vict.)**

Manufacturing, forging or using counterfeit coins or money.

**Bestiality**

Unnatural carnal connection or sexual intercourse with animals.

**Bigamy**

Knowingly entering into an unlawful marriage with a third party while the previous spouse is still alive (includes contravention of 17 & 18 Vict., c. 80, s. 60 (Registration Act))

**Breach of the peace**

Crime used to cover a wide range of socially disruptive or offensive behaviour. Typically, a public disturbance by an individual, or individuals, or conduct interfering with the peace of a neighbourhood.

**Breach of trust and embezzlement (Breach of trust, fraud and embezzlement)**

Felonious appropriation of what has been entrusted to the accused.

**Burden of proof (see Proven and Not proven)**

The onus, or burden, of proving the case against an accused. The prosecution (Crown) has to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

**Capital punishment**

The death penalty, or death by hanging. Until 1834, there were almost fifty capital crimes in Scotland, but the numbers were reduced by statute. Eventually the death penalty was restricted to cases of murder, attempted murder and treason until its abolition in 1964.

**Cattle-stealing (also: Horse-stealing and Sheep-stealing)**

Theft of livestock.

**Celebrating clandestine marriages**

Conducting unlawful marriages.

**Child murder, or concealment of pregnancy (Contravention of Concealment of Birth (Scotland) Act 1809; Con. 49 Geo. III, c. 14)**

When a woman concealed her pregnancy during its course and did not seek help or assistance at the birth, and the child was found dead or missing. Concealment meant non-disclosure not merely active deception.

**Clandestine injury (see Rape)**

Sexual intercourse with a sleeping or unconscious woman

**Committal**

A person charged with a serious crime may be committed to remain in an institution pending trial on indictment.

**Coining and uttering base coin (see Base coin)****Concealment of pregnancy (see Child murder).****Contempt of court**

Disregard for the authority of the court, including committing disorderly behaviour in court, improper conduct intended to influence the course of justice, or bringing the administration of justice into disrepute.

## **Conspiracy**

Where two or more persons agree to carry out a criminal purpose.

## **Court of Criminal Appeal**

Established under The Criminal Appeal (Scotland) Act 1926. Consists of three judges to hear appeals for criminal cases falling under solemn procedure.

## **Culpable and reckless conduct (also: Culpable violation and neglect of duty)**

Culpable and reckless acts which cause injury to others or which create a risk of injury.

## **Culpable homicide (voluntary/ involuntary)**

Intentional/ reckless act with some diminishing factor/ death caused unintentionally by criminal act or culpable negligence

## **Deforcement (also: Obstructing etc.)**

Resistance to messengers-at-arms, customs officers, police or other officers while employed in the execution of their legal duties.

## **Diet**

A sitting, or meeting of the court for the purpose of taking steps in the proceedings in any prosecution.

## **Diet deserted**

A sitting abandoned.

## **Diet deserted pro loco et tempore**

A sitting abandoned for another time and place.

## **Embezzlement (see Breach of trust)**

## **Extortion (also: Attempted extortion) –**

Where goods are obtained by a threat of future violence or some other kind of threat

## **False accusation**

Falsely accusing another of committing a crime.

## **Falsehood, fraud and wilful imposition (also: Fraud; Falsehood; Falsehood and Wilful imposition)**

Fraud or falsehood by word of mouth, writing or conduct; fraud, uttered with the intent to cheat; and wilful imposition, with the intention that it has been carried into effect.

## **Firearms offences (examples)**

Firing a loaded weapon with intent to cause injury or death

- Discharging a loaded firearm/ gun, or fowling piece/ revolver/ pistol/ rifle
- Assault by firing a loaded firearm/ gun/ revolver etc.
- Contravention of 10 Geo. IV, c. 38, s. 2

## **Fire-raising (see Wilful fire-raising)**

## **Fisheries offences (see Poaching)**

## **Forgery (also: Uttering forged writings)**

Forgery per se is not a crime. The crime is uttering, i.e. using as genuine a fabricated writing falsely intended to pass as genuine the writing of another person.

## **Fraud (see Falsehood etc.)**

## **Fugitation**

Sentence imposed upon an accused who fails to appear for trial at the appointed diet (declared 'outlaw and fugitive', or sentence of 'outlawry' imposed)

## **Furtum usus (Latin)**

Clandestinely taking possession of and using

**Habit and repute**

A criminal by habit and repute; an habitual criminal

**Hamesucken**

Assault upon a person in the victim's home

**High Court (The High Court of Justiciary)**

The supreme criminal court in Scotland. It consists of the Lord Justice-General (who is the head of the court and the same person as the Lord President of the Court of Session, the supreme civil court), the Lord Justice-Clerk, and the other judges of the Court of Session. When sitting in the Court of Justiciary, the judges are known as Lords Commissioners of Justiciary.

**Housebreaking (also: Housebreaking with intent to rob)**

Unauthorised affected entry of building which is secured.

**Incest**

Offences committed under the Incest Act, 1567. This could be construed as sexual intercourse with ascendants up to great-grandparents and descendants down to great-grandchildren, with brothers or sisters, nephews or nieces, aunts or uncles, and adoptive or former adoptive parents and children. The offence is committed where the relationships are of half blood as well as full blood.

**Inferior court**

A court of lesser jurisdiction. In Scotland these would be sheriff courts, justice of the peace courts, burgh courts and police courts.

**Indictment**

Served on the accused. It lays down the charges about the commission of a serious offence or charge.

**Intran (Latin)**

Enter. Occurs before noting a person or persons present in court eg 'Intran Thomas Balkie present prisoner in the Tolbooth of Inverness'.

**Jurisdiction**

A power to hear and decide. The High Court is a court of 'first instance' and has the power to hear and decide cases coming before it directly.

**Lewd practices (also: Lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour)**

Criminal actions used towards children under the age of puberty. Also an offence if committed against a girl between the age of 12 and 16 years.

**Lord Advocate (see Advocate Depute)**

The senior law officer of the Crown in Scotland responsible for the taking of criminal proceedings.

**Malicious mischief (also: Malicious damage)**

Destruction or injury to property without the direct intention of removing it from its rightful owner, including a deliberate or wicked intent to injure.

**Mobbing and rioting**

Forming part of a mob engaged in disorderly, criminal behaviour. The crime consists in combining to the alarm of the lieges (public) for an illegal purpose, or in order to carry out a legal purpose by illegal means, e.g. violence or intimidation. It is the common purpose which distinguishes it from Breach of the Peace.

**Murder (also: Attempted murder)**

Unlawful killing of another with intent to kill, or with wicked recklessness to life.

**Not proven (see Burden of proof)**

The Crown has failed to prove the case against the accused beyond reasonable doubt. It is the equivalent of a 'not guilty' verdict. Both verdicts are acquittals, and have the effect that the accused cannot be tried again for the same offence.

**Obstructing and deforcing officers (see Deforcement)**

**Opening lockfast place** (see Theft)

Breaking into a locked premises/house/safe.

**Pannel** (see Accused)

Person brought to trial; the accused.

**Perjury**

Judicial affirmation of falsehood while under oath.

**Plagium** (Latin)

Theft of an infant.

**Poaching** (also: Night-poaching; Con. Night Poaching Act, 1828 & 1844; Con. Game (Scotland) Act, 1832)

The unlawful taking of game or rabbits by night.

**Precedent**

An example, the judgement of a court or a proposition of law, which may or must be followed.

**Precognition**

A precognition is a preliminary examination of a person who may be required to give evidence in a criminal trial or civil proof.

**Procurator fiscal**

The public prosecutor in inferior courts.

**Proven** (see Burden of proof)

The Crown has proven the case against an accused beyond reasonable doubt. It is the equivalent of a 'guilty' verdict.

**Prison breaking**

Escaping from lawful confinement.

**Rape** (also: Attempted rape; Assault with intent to ravish; Clandestine injury; Indecent assault)

Sexual intercourse with a woman by means of the forcible overcoming of her will. Offences such as the carnal knowledge of a woman while asleep, or connection with a woman rendered insensible by drink, may be indicted as 'clandestine injury' or 'indecent assault'.

**Reset**

Feloniously receiving or retaining goods, obtained by theft, robbery etc., knowing that they have been dishonestly appropriated.

**Road traffic offences** (examples)

- Contravention of the Motor Car Act, 1903
- Contravention of the Road Traffic Act, 1930

**Robbery**

Felonious appropriation of property by means of personal violence. The property does not require to be upon the owner at the time.

**Sedition**

Attempting to disturb the tranquillity of the State for the purpose of producing public trouble or commotion.

**Ship-breaking**

Unauthorised affected entry of a ship or vessel.

**Sine die** (Latin)

Without fixed day.

**Sodomy**

Male homosexual intercourse, construed as act of gross indecency.

**Stouthrief**

Theft accompanied with violence.

### **Solemn procedure**

Procedure in the criminal courts in which a person is charged on indictment, and the trial is heard before a judge and a jury of 15 persons.

### **Statutory Offences (examples)**

- Contravention of Concealment of Birth (Scotland) Act 1809  
Taking unlawful steps to conceal birth
- Contravention of Explosive Substances Act 1883  
Unauthorised usage of explosive substances
- Contravention of Road Traffic Act, 1930  
Driving offences
- Contravention of 1 Vict., c. 36 (Post Office Act)  
Offences against the Royal Mail or stealing letters
- Contravention of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1906  
Offences relating to dishonesty

### **Subornation of perjury**

Inducing another to commit perjury.

### **Summary procedure**

Procedure in the criminal courts in which a trial is heard before a judge sitting alone. Courts of summary jurisdiction deal with less serious offences.

### **Theft**

Dishonest appropriation of property without the owner's consent, with intent to deprive them of its use, either temporarily or permanently:

- Theft by opening lockfast places
- Theft by housebreaking
- Attempted theft
- Theft of a motor vehicle

### **Threats**

The making of oral or written threats.

### **Trial**

The hearing of a case in criminal proceedings.

**Uttering** (see Forgery)

### **Verdict**

The judgement given, after proceedings in a criminal court have reached final conclusion.

### **Witness**

A person who, on oath or solemn affirmation, gives evidence in an action.

**Wilful fire-raising** (also: Fire-raising; Culpable and reckless fire-raising)

Deliberate or reckless burning of another's property. The gravity depends upon whether the act was done recklessly or wilfully.

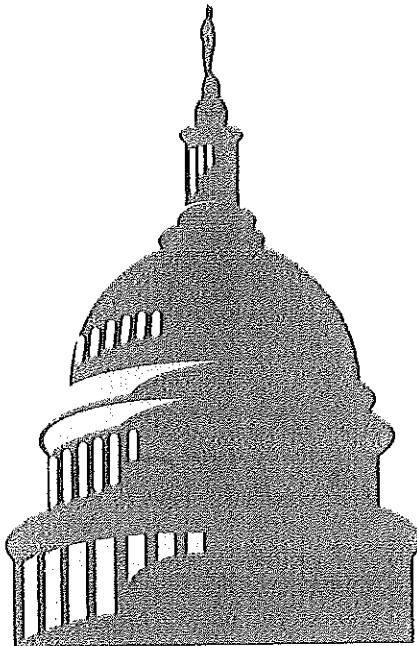
## Independent Living Skills Module IV



### ACTIVITY

Research the possible legal consequences for the following offenses and record the answers in the chart below.

Offense	Penalty
<i>Shoplifting</i>	
<i>Driving Without a License</i>	
<i>Robbery</i>	
<i>Possession of Stolen Property</i>	
<i>Assault</i>	
<i>Possession of Drugs</i>	
<i>Possession of a Dangerous Weapon</i>	



## Independent Living Skills Module IV

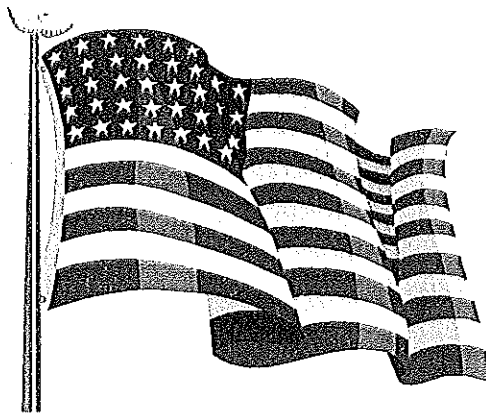
### THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The government of the United States of America is a democracy which, as you know, means that its citizens (age 18 and older) have the right to vote.

Officials at all levels of government -- from the President of the United States to the mayor of a city -- are elected by the citizens.

Before you can vote in an election, however, you must:

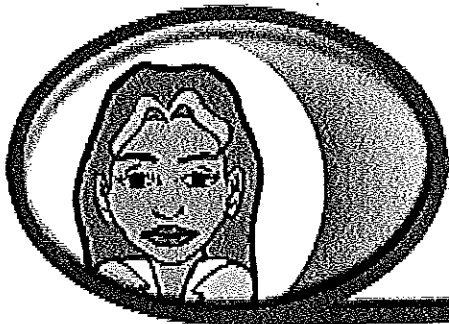
- be 18 years of age or older; and
- register to vote.



#### ACTIVITY

1. *Find out where and when you can register to vote in your town/city.*
2. *Find out where you would go to vote if you were eligible to vote in the next election.*





# LEASE AGREEMENT

( Sample - For Instructional Purposes Only )

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this day of:

\_\_\_\_\_

By and between:

\_\_\_\_\_, lessor

and

\_\_\_\_\_, lessee;

**UNDER WITNESSETH:**

Let unto lessee and lessee hires that for and in consideration of the payment of the rents and the performance of the terms of lessee's covenants herein contained, lessor does hereby demise and let unto the lessee and lessee hires from lessor for use as a residence those certain premises located at

\_\_\_\_\_

(indicate one)

On a month to month tenancy beginning \_\_\_\_\_

For a term of \_\_\_\_\_,  
commencing \_\_\_\_\_,

and ending \_\_\_\_\_

at a rental of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, payable monthly in advance on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each and every month.

**Rents are payable at the following address:**

It is agreed that if rent is unpaid after 5:00pm 4 days following due date, the lessee shall pay a one time late charge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Any dishonorable check shall be teated as unpaid rent and be subject to the same late charge plus a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ special handling fee and must be made good by cash, money order or certified check within 24 hours of notification.

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**IT IS FURTHER MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) Said premises shall be occupied by no more than \_\_\_\_\_ occupants;
- 2) Lessee shall not violate any city ordinance or state law in or about said premises;
- 3) Lessee shall not sub-let the demised premises, or any part thereof, or assign this lease without lessor's written consent;
- 4) If lessee fails to pay rent or other charges promptly when due, or to comply with any other term or condition hereof, lessor at lessor's option, and after proper written notice, may terminate this tenancy;
- 5) Lessee shall maintain the premises in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, and upon the termination of the tenancy shall surrender same to lessor in as good condition as when received, ordinary wear and tear and damage by the elements excepted; a fee is herewith paid, no part of which is refundable for cleaning up and restoring the premises in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) There shall be working locks on all outside doors; lessor shall provide lessee with keys for same;
- 7) *(indicate one)*
  - Lessee
  - Lessor

shall properly cultivate, care for and adequately water the lawn, shrubbery and grounds;
- 8) Lessor shall supply electric wiring, plumbing facilities which produce hot and cold running, safe drinking water and adequate heating facilities;
- 9) Lessee shall pay for all natural gas, electricity, and telephone service. All other services will be paid for by Lessor and Lessee as follows:

	Lessee Lessor		Lessee Lessor	
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garbage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 10) Lessee agrees to assume all liability for, and to hold lessor harmless from, all damages and all costs and fees in the defense thereof, caused by the negligence or willful act of lessee or lessee's invitees or guests, in or upon any part of the demised premises, and to be responsible for any damage or breakage to lessee's equipment, fixtures or appliances therein or thereon, not caused by lessor's misconduct or willful neglect.
- 11) The lessor, after 24 hours' written notice specifying the causes, may immediately terminate this agreement and take possession if:  
a) Lessee's pet seriously threatens or inflicts personal injury upon the lessor or other tenants; b) Lessee's concern inflicts any substantial damage to the premises; c) Lessee has vacated the premises, the person in possession is holding contrary to a written rental agreement that prohibits subleasing the premises to another person to occupy the premises without written permission of the lessor, and the lessor has not knowingly accepted rent from the person in possession; or d) Lessee's concern commits any act which is outrageous in the extreme;
- 12) The owner (or agent of service) is: \_\_\_\_\_;  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Any holding over by lessee after the expiration of this agreement or any extension thereof, shall be as a tenancy from month to month;
- 14) If this is a month-to-month tenancy only, then this agreement may be terminated by either party giving the other at anytime not less than 30 days' notice in writing prior to the date designated in the tenancy termination notice, whereupon the tenancy shall terminate on the date designated;
- 15) Lessor acknowledges the receipt of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a security deposit, of which lessor may claim all or part thereof to remedy lessee's defaults in the performance of this agreement (including nonpayment of past due rent) and to repair damage to the premises.
- 16) Pets are  
 a) allowed  
 b) not allowed  
 c) if allowed, "pets" consist of \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) The following personal property is included and to be left upon the premises when tenancy is terminated:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this agreement in duplicate the day and year first above written and lessee acknowledges receipt of a copy of this agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lessee

---

## Independent Living Skills Module IV

In addition to the resources in your community, state-wide and national hotlines offer assistance and can refer you to local organizations for help. The following listing is a sample of hotlines which might be helpful to you now or in the future.

Adult Literacy Hotline .....	800-447-8844
AIDS Hotline (English) .....	800-342-2437
AIDS Hotline (Spanish).....	800-344-7432
AIDS Teen Line .....	800-234-8336
Alateen/Alanon .....	617-843-5300
Alcoholics Anonymous.....	617-426-9444
Alcohol Hotline.....	800-ALCOHOL
Ask-A-Nurse .....	800-544-2424
Battered Women's Hotline .....	800-899-4000
Career Learning Line .....	800-442-1171
	617-536-0200
Dating Violence Youth Hotline .....	617-773-HURT
Drug Abuser Anonymous .....	800-274-2042
Drug and Alcohol Hotline.....	800-327-5050
Gay and Lesbian Hotline .....	617-267-9001
<del>Higher Education Center at Boston Public Library.....</del>	<del>617-536-0200</del>
	800-442-1171
Hunger Hotline.....	617-523-7010
	800-645-8333
<del>Massachusetts Department of Education.....</del>	<del>617-388-3300</del>
<del>Massachusetts Tenants Organization.....</del>	<del>617-367-6269</del>
Narcotics House.....	800-234-0420
Planned Parenthood .....	800-682-9218
Rape Crisis Hotline (English).....	617-492-RAPE
Rape Crisis Hotline (Spanish).....	617-492-2803
Samaritans.....	617-247-0220
Samarateens .....	800-252-8336
Smokenders.....	800-828-4357
Teen Alcoholism Hotline.....	800-252-6465

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## Office of Policy and Management

### Program Victim

#### CT Hotlines and Services Victims of Crime

#### Services and Hotlines in Connecticut

If you need help in finding services, the **Office of Victim Services, Connecticut Judicial Branch**, is the state's lead agency for providing services to victims of violent crime. OVS is located at 225 Spring St., Fourth Floor, Wethersfield, Connecticut and can be reached by calling:

Office of Victim Services Contact	Phone	TDD	Toll-free
Administration	860-263-2760	860-263-2778	800-822-8428
Services	860-263-2760	860-263-2778	800-822-8428
Compensation	860-263-2761	860-263-2779	888-286-7347

Please visit the [OVS website](#) for information on victim compensation programs, information and referral services, victim's constitutional rights and notification of the status of an inmate.

<http://www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim/>

#### Connecticut Domestic Violence Hotline

You can be immediately connected with services in your area by calling the toll free domestic violence hotline at:  
**1-888-774-2900**

#### Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) Services

[CCADV Homepage](#)

#### Connecticut Sexual Assault Hotline

You can be immediately connected with services in your area by calling the toll free sexual assault hotline

Statewide 24 Hour Toll Free Hotline

**1-888-999-5545 English**  
**1-888-568-8332 Español**

#### Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS)

All services are free and confidential  
<http://www.connsacs.org/index.htm>

#### State of Connecticut, Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA)

<http://www.ova.state.ct.us/>

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA), is an independent state agency that monitors and evaluates how victims are treated by the criminal justice system in Connecticut. Please visit the OVA website for information on victim's

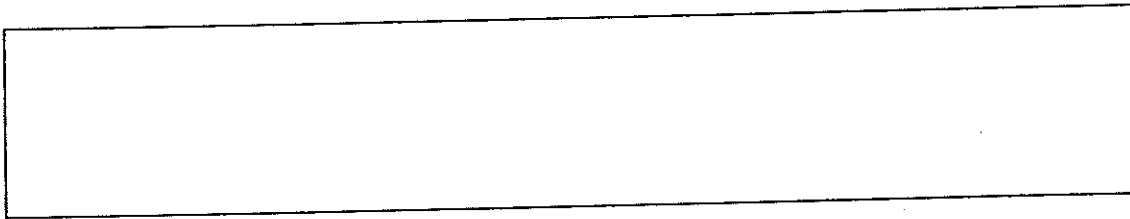
rights and investigational reports.

**ate of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2556&q=314388>

The DCF has a single point of contact statewide for the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect. The Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Anyone who suspects that a child has been abused or neglected or is in danger of abuse or neglect is strongly encouraged to call the Hotline. The toll free number is 1-800-842-2288. Also, see the child abuse and neglect definitions that are part of this website.

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Prior to looking for an apartment, you will also have to decide whether or not you are willing to sign a detailed rental agreement, called a **lease**. Most landlords require tenants to sign a lease, which defines responsibilities and expectations for both parties. Leases offer protection to the tenant and the landlord. They are legal documents and, therefore, binding. By signing a lease, tenants usually commit to keeping the apartment for 12 months and are held financially responsible for the rent during this period. Leases also specify rules and restrictions for tenants, i.e. pets, use of the apartment facilities (pool, laundry), noise levels, parking, etc. Most leases also require that tenants do not sublease (rent the apartment to someone else) without permission.

In general, a lease is considered a legal contract whose conditions are agreed upon when both the tenant and the landlord sign their names. So be sure to read the entire agreement carefully and thoroughly before you sign a lease.

**ACTIVITY**

Read the sample lease below and answer the questions which follow.

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 19\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 herein called ("Lessors") hereby lease to \_\_\_\_\_  
 herein called the ("Lessee") the following premises: A first floor apartment located at \_\_\_\_\_.

Rent per month: Six Hundred Thirty Five Dollars (\$635.00), term: 12 months,  
 commencement date: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 19\_\_.

**1. Rent**

The monthly rental to be paid by the Lessee for the apartment shall be as indicated above to be paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each and every month, in advance, so long as this Lease is in force and effect.

**2. Security Deposit**

The Lessor agrees to hold the security deposit of Six Hundred Thirty Five dollars in an interest bearing escrow account, as a security deposit for the full, faithful, and punctual performance by the Lessee of all lawful covenants and conditions of this Lease. It is understood that this security deposit may be applied to damages caused by the Lessee. The Lessors will return the security deposit, less the amount applied to damages, with interest as required by law and make a full accounting to the Lessee for all damages applied within 30 days after the building is vacated. It is further understood that the security deposit is not to be considered prepaid rent, nor shall damages be limited to the amount of this security deposit.



Lessee further agrees that upon vacating the apartment, it will be returned to a similar condition as when it was rented, reasonable wear and tear excepted.

**12. Complete Agreement**

It is agreed, except as herein otherwise provided, that no amendment or change or addition to this lease shall be binding upon the Lessors or Lessee unless reduced to writing and signed by the parties hereto. It is hereby agreed that this is the entire agreement of the parties.

**13. Joint and Several Obligations**

If this Lease is executed by more than one person or entity as Lessee, then and in that event all the obligations incurred by the Lessee under this Lease shall be joint and several.

**14. Severability**

Unenforceability for any reason of any provision(s) of this Lease shall not limit or impair the operation or validity of any other provision(s) of this Lease.

**15. Holdover**

If the Lessee remains in possession without the written consent of the Lessors at the expiration of the term hereof or its termination, then the Lessors may recover, in addition to possession, the monthly rental stipulated above for each month, or portion thereof, during the Lessee's holdover plus either one and one-half (1-1/2) times the monthly rental or the actual damages sustained by the Lessors, whichever is greater, plus the Lessor's costs of recovering said amounts and possessions, or if the apartment appears to have been abandoned.

**16. Right of Entry**

The Lessors may enter the apartment at any time where such entry is made necessary by an extreme hazard involving the potential loss of life or severe property damage, and between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in order to inspect the apartment, to make repairs thereto, to show the same to a prospective or actual purchaser or tenant, pursuant to court order, or if the apartment appears to have been abandoned.

**17. Delivery of Lease**

The Lessors shall deliver a copy of this Lease duly executed by the Lessors or their authorized agent, to the Lessee within thirty (30) days after the Lessee delivers and executed copy of this Lease to the Lessors.

**18. Renewal/Notice to Quit**

It is understood that the Lessee shall notify the Lessors of her/his intention to renew the Lease at the expiration of the term, or, alternatively, shall notify the Lessors of his/her intention not to renew within thirty (30) days of the end of the lease term.