

## Not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect

*Pursuant to Connecticut  
General Statutes:*

§ 17a-601, whenever a defendant has been found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect and is committed to the custody of the Psychiatric Security Review Board, a victim has the right to address any court or board hearing concerning the continued confinement of the acquittee, the conditions of confinement, the escape from confinement or the release from board supervision of the acquittee.

§ 17a-585, the board shall conduct a hearing and review the status of the acquittee not less than once every two years.

*“When the whole world is  
silent, even one voice  
becomes powerful.”*

*-Malala Yousafzai*



### **Office of The Victim Advocate**

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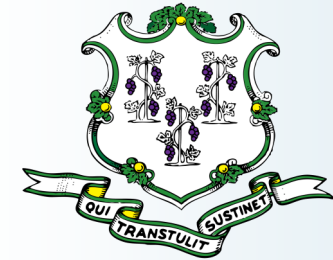
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## **BE HEARD**

*Crime victims have a State Constitutional right to communicate with the Prosecution, the right to object to or support any plea agreement entered into by the accused and the prosecution and to make a statement to the court prior to the acceptance by the court of the plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the accused and the right to make a statement to the court at sentencing*





## Pre Trial Diversion & Programs

*Pursuant to Connecticut General statutes:*

§ 17a-696, a victim has a right to address the court regarding a defendant's motion for suspension of prosecution for treatment of alcohol or drug dependency.

§ 46b-38c, a victim has a right to address the court regarding a defendant's application for entry into the family violence education program.

§ 54-56e, a victim has a right to address the court regarding a defendant's application for the accelerated pretrial rehabilitation program.

§ 54-56g, a victim who sustained a serious physical injury has a right to address the court regarding a defendant's application for the pretrial alcohol education program.

§ 54-56l, a victim has a right to address the court regarding a defendant's application for entry into the pretrial supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities and veterans.

## Plea & Sentencing

*Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes:*

§ 54-91a, whenever a presentence investigation is required after a finding of guilt, the probation officer shall promptly inquire into the attitude of the victim, including an inquiry into any damages suffered by the victim.

§ 54-91c, prior to the imposition of sentence upon a defendant **and** prior to the acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement, the court shall permit any victim of crime to appear before the court to make a statement for the record. In lieu of the victim's oral statement, the victim may submit a written statement to the state's attorney and the state's attorney shall file the statement with the sentencing court and shall be made a part of the record at the sentencing hearing.

§ 53a-46d, a victim impact statement may be read in court prior to imposition of sentence upon a defendant found guilty of a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

*\* This summary of legal rights is subject to the full text of the statutes. Victims are entitled to rights as set forth in the statutes. If you don't understand your legal rights, you may wish to speak with an attorney or contact the Office of the Victim Advocate.*

## Post Conviction

*Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes:*

§ 51-196, a victim has a right to address the Sentence Review Division to make a statement for the record concerning whether or not the sentence of the defendant should be increased, decreased or should stand.

§ 53a-29, a victim has a right to address the sentencing court to make a statement concerning whether a defendant's probation should be terminated early.

§ 53a-39, a victim has a right to make a statement before the sentencing court or judge concerning a reduction of sentence or discharge of the defendant.

§ 54-126a, a victim has a right to address the Board of Pardons and Paroles panel to make a statement concerning whether an inmate should be granted release to parole supervision or the nature of any terms or conditions to be imposed upon any such release.

§ 54-130d, a victim has a right to address the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make a statement to the panel concerning whether a convicted person should be granted a commutation, release or pardon.

§ 54-255, a victim has a right to address the court at a hearing upon motion of a convicted person to be removed from the sex offender registration requirements or to restrict the dissemination of the registration information.