

THE OVA ACTIVELY MONITORS PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Office of The Victim Advocate actively monitors and comments on proposed legislation that directly impact victims of crime.



A NOTE FROM THE STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE

Each session, my office has tirelessly spoken in favor of laws and changes that benefit victims of crime, and in opposition to laws or changes that directly violate the statutory and constitutional rights of victims in our state. Crime victims and their families continue to face challenges because the state continues to fail to provide enforcement when crime victims' rights are violated. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate in the legislative process, contact our office at 860-550-6632 or ova.info@ct.gov.

01.

Public Act No. 23-46 (House Bill No. 6874), An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations, the Sharing of Judicial Branch Records and the Award of Damages in Certain Civil Matters (in part)

- Permits a victim's "next of kin" to attend juvenile delinquency and youthful offender proceedings, unless a hearing is held, and good cause is shown for the victim and the victim's next of kin exclusion. "Next of kin" is defined as a spouse, adult child, a parent, an adult sibling, an aunt, an uncle or a grandparent. (Effective July 1, 2023)
- Requires the Department of Correction, Victim Services Unit (DOC, VSU), in addition to the Office of Victim Services (OVS), to notify victims, who are registered, of the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) intent to terminate a person's special parole. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS, THE SHARING OF JUDICIAL BRANCH RECORDS AND THE AWARD OF DAMAGES IN CERTAIN CIVIL MATTERS.](#)

02.

Public Act No. 23-106 (Senate Bill No. 5), An Act Strengthening the Protections Against and Response to Domestic Violence

- Prohibits the court from ordering the payment of temporary or permanent alimony from an injured spouse to a spouse who, at any time after the date of the marriage, is convicted of certain violent crimes against the injured spouse. (Effective October 1, 2023)
- Requires the Judicial Department to establish a GPS monitoring program in each judicial district. (Effective July 1, 2023)
- Requires a report to the Judiciary Committee on the potential statewide expansion of the grant program that provides legal assistance to indigent applicants of a restraining order. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTIONS AGAINST AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

03.

Public Act No. 23-136 (Senate Bill No. 1118), An Act Concerning the Establishment and Duties of the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council

- Merges the Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council and the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council into the newly created Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council. (Effective July 1, 2023)
- Expands the scope of its purpose and responsibilities and expands the membership of the Council. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AND ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.](#)

04.

Public Act No. 23-134 (House Bill No. 6918), An Act Concerning Erasure of Criminal History Records (in part)

- Ensures that a standing criminal protective order survives the automatic erasure of a person's criminal record. (Effective July 1, 2023)
- Ensures that the sex offender registry requirements survive the automatic erasure of a person's criminal history. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS.](#)

05.

Public Act No. 23-20 (Senate Bill No. 1117), An Act Implementing Additional Measures to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Expanding the Composition of the Trafficking in Persons Council

- Prohibits hotels and motels that offer a room with sleeping accommodations from offering or providing a financial discount or benefit that is based on an hourly rate or an occupancy period that is for 12 hours or less. (Effective October 1, 2023)
- Adds the Commissioner of Developmental Services to the Trafficking in Persons Council membership. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT IMPLEMENTING ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND EXPANDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL.](#)

06.

Public Act No. 23-123 (House Bill No. 6737), An Act Establishing the Crime of Harmful Communication with a Minor

- Establishes a new crime (A misdemeanor) of harmful communication with a minor, which prohibits a person 25 or older from using a computer service or text message to knowingly induce a minor to share pictures or other images or engage in communication or behavior to form an inappropriate relationship with the minor. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF HARMFUL COMMUNICATION WITH A MINOR.](#)

07.

Public Act No. 23-56 (Senate Bill No. 3), An Act Concerning Online Privacy, Data and Safety Protections (in part)

- Sets standards on accessing and sharing consumer health data. (Effective July 1, 2023)
- Requires social media platforms to unpublish a minor's social media account within 15 days and delete the account within 45 days of an authenticated request. (Effective July 1, 2024)
- Establishes a framework and sets requirements for managing and processing personal data of minors. (Effective October 1, 2024)
- Requires online dating operators to adopt a policy for handling harassment reports. (Effective January 1, 2024)
- Establishes the CT Internet Crimes Against Children task force. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE PRIVACY, DATA AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS.](#)

08.

Public Act No. 23-193 (Senate Bill No. 969), An Act Concerning Verification of the Residential Address of a Registered Sex Offender

- Permits a registered sex offender to verify their residential address by fax or email. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: [AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.](#)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

09.

Public Act No. 23-176 (Senate Bill No. 1133), An Act Concerning Circumstances Presenting a Substantial Risk to a Child's Health or Safety

- Limits the circumstances under which a parent or guardian may be found guilty of leaving a minor unattended in a public place or motor vehicle and requires consideration be given to whether the person exercised judgment that a reasonable person would use to determine if the child was of sufficient age, maturity, and physical and mental ability to be unsupervised under the circumstances. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENTING A SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO A CHILD'S HEALTH OR SAFETY.

10.

Public Act No. 23-12 (Senate Bill No. 1196), An Act Concerning the Transfer of Persons Who are Incarcerated Between Correctional Facilities and the Use of Body Scanning Machines in Correctional Facilities as an Alternative to the Use of Strip Searches (in part)

- Requires the Commissioner of Correction to notify victims, who have registered to receive notification, when an inmate is transferred from one correctional facility to another. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED BETWEEN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND THE USE OF BODY SCANNING MACHINES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE USE OF STRIP SEARCHES.

11.

Public Act No. 23-26 (Senate Bill No. 1070), An Act Concerning Prosecutorial Accountability

- Requires each state's attorney to appear before the Criminal Justice Commission annually for testimony and comment related to data collected by the Division of Criminal Justice. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING PROSECUTORIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

12.

Public Act No. 23-188 (House Bill No. 6888), An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice(in part)

- Creates an implementation team to develop a prearrest diversion plan for juveniles charged with certain offenses. (Effective from passage)
- Develop a reentry success plan for juveniles released from Department of Correction and the Judicial Department facilities and programs. (Effective from passage)
- Submit a plan for automatic prearrest diversion of juveniles to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee not later than July 1, 2024. (Effective from passage)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE.

13.

Public Act No. 23-47 (House Bill No. 6917), An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Statutes (in part)

- Clarifies when a defendant may file a subsequent motion for a sentence modification and requires the defendant to provide a copy of the motion, along with supporting documents, to the state's attorney, if requested. (Effective October 1, 2023)
- Requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to provide a copy of an inmate's application for commutation, parole or release, including supporting documentation, to the state's attorney, if requested and permit the state's attorney to appear and make a statement concerning the inmate's application. (Effective October 1, 2023)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES.

14.

Public Act No. 23-169 (Senate Bill No. 952), An Act Concerning Parole Eligibility for an Individual Serving a Lengthy Sentence for a Crime Committed Before the Individual Reached the Age of Twenty-one and Criminal History Records Erasure

- Expands the eligibility for a parole hearing to offenders that committed their offenses when they were under the age of 21. (Effective October 1, 2023)
- Limits when a DUI conviction may be erased. (Effective July 1, 2023)

Full text: AN ACT CONCERNING PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SERVING A LENGTHY SENTENCE FOR A CRIME COMMITTED BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL REACHED THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE AND CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS ERASURE.