



Drug Recognition Expert Training Application Connecticut



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). The Connecticut DRE Program consists of highly skilled, specially trained police officers, who work diligently to address the dangerous problem posed by impaired drivers.

To apply for DRE School, you must be a certified Connecticut Police Officer in compliance with current Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) requirements. You must have attended the NHTSA/IACP 24-hour basic SFST Class, with a minimum of one live alcohol workshop. You must have successfully attended the NHTSA ARIDE class. It is preferred that the applicant have traffic enforcement experience, specifically regarding impaired driving, and courtroom testimony. Due to class size, needs of the State, and budget constraints, not all applicants are accepted. Furthermore, if the applicant is selected, it should be noted that DRE School is extremely demanding.

To receive certification as a DRE, candidates must successfully complete the following training phases:

Academic Training- This classroom phase is conducted over a two-week period. It includes courses in physiology, vital signs, standardized field sobriety testing (SFST), as well as extensive material on each of the seven categories of drugs. The training includes three written examinations, an SFST proficiency examination, and five written quizzes. Students must achieve a minimum score of 80% on the examinations and must demonstrate proficiency in administering the SFST's to advance to the certification phase.

Certification Phase- After successfully completing the academic portion, the students must complete the certification phase. These requirements include conducting a minimum of twelve drug influence evaluations while under the supervision of a DRE instructor, identifying subjects under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories, and attaining a 75% toxicological confirmation rate. In addition, the student must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) are the regulating and certifying organizations for the CT DRE Program. DRE certification is valid for two years. **To maintain certification, DRE's are required to complete (as the evaluator) a minimum of four evaluations (one of which observed by a DRE Instructor), submit a rolling log and current resume, and attend eight hours of approved training during the two-year period.**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

I. Contact/Background

Name: _____ Rank: _____
Agency: _____ Hire Date: _____
Current Assignment: _____ Time in Assignment: _____
Cellular Phone: _____ E-mail*: _____

****E-mail is the preferred method of communication with DREs. Candidates should provide an e-mail address that they check frequently****

II. Training Certification Information (*attach certificates for each of the below trainings)

Date of SFST 24 hr. Basic Certification Class: _____
Date of Live Alcohol/Wet Lab: _____
Date of any SFST Training Updates: _____
Date of ARIDE Training: _____

III. Impaired Driving Experience

Number of impaired driving investigations in the past 2 years: _____
Number of controlled substance investigations in the past 2 years: _____
Number of times testified in administrative/per se hearings: _____
Number of times testified in courtroom proceedings: _____

IV. Statement of Interest

Provide a brief written statement on why you would like to become a DRE. Attached additional pages as needed.

CERTIFICATION

I affirm that the information contained in this application is true and accurate. I have reviewed the application instructions and details regarding the 2023 DRE school selection process and training dates. By submitting this application, I am committing to attending the training phases as scheduled. I will fully comply with all requirements set forth for certification as a Drug Recognition Expert. Understanding the requirements, I hereby submit this application with all required attachments and request an interview by the candidate screening committee.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Application Checklist

- Completed Student Application
- Training Certifications (SFST/ARIDE)
- A letter from the Chief or Troop Commander supporting the use of DREs in impaired driving investigations *statewide*, police trainings, and case consultations
- Copy of one (1) adjudicated DUI reports from the previous twelve months (*redact all identifying information)
- Any additional documentation that will support your appointment to become a DRE

Submission Instructions

Scan all documents into a single PDF file and e-mail to:

Sgt. Robert V. Klin, Ret.
DRE State Coordinator
CT DOT Highway Safety Office
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546
Telephone: 860-594-2386
Email: Robert.Klin@ct.gov

Completed application packets must be received no later than May 1, 2023. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

To be considered for DRE training, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full time Police Officer; as defined by Connecticut State Statutes
- Be in “good standing” with their agency
- Not currently in a probationary period with their agency
- Completed the NHTSA-approved SFST and ARIDE training

Additionally, preference will be given to candidates that meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of three years of full-time law enforcement experience
- Presently assigned to patrol/traffic duties
- Experience with DUI laws and arrest procedures
- Experience testifying at administrative per se hearings and/or court proceedings

Selection Process and Training Schedule

Following review of all written application packets received, candidates will be contacted for an interview. Interviews are anticipated to be held the **week of June 12th**. Selected candidates and their departments will be notified by **July 15, 2023**. These candidates will be enrolled in the DRE School, presently scheduled for **October 16, 2023 through October 27, 2023**, with field certifications to take place the week of **November 27th in North Carolina**.