

# Charter

of the

## Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut

The **Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut** is a multi-disciplinary, statewide group of private and public stakeholders working together to educate about and prevent older adult abuse, and protect the rights, independence, security, and well-being of older adults.

### 1. Background

In 2013, the Department of Aging and Disability Services ("ADS," formerly the State Department on Aging) formed the Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut ("CEJC" or "the Coalition"). Modeled after the federal Elder Justice Coalition, the goal of the CEJC is to unite and lead public and private stakeholders to promote older adult justice awareness and education in Connecticut. Former Governor Dannel Malloy recognized the CEJC and issued Executive Order 42, authorizing the active participation by various state departments and agencies to collaborate with stakeholders to protect the rights and prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults in Connecticut.

Since then, the Coalition has hosted annual outreach events and meetings. Coalition members have led "Action Teams" to address financial exploitation, provided training to front-line bank staff and faith-based partners, and collaborated with AARP Fraud Watch Network to combat financial scams targeting older adults. From 2016 until 2020, the CEJC was able to provide support for the development of conservator web-based training, law enforcement training, and a variety of other older adult abuse awareness initiatives thanks to an Administration of Community Living grant. Since 2020, the CEJC has continued to build relationships with public and private agencies and organizations, support the collaborative efforts of public and community partners, and promoted older adult justice initiatives in the state of Connecticut.

### 2. Mission Statement

The mission of the CEJC is to leverage a multidisciplinary, statewide group of private and public stakeholders to educate and prevent older adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation and protect the rights, independence, security, and well-being of older adults.

### 3. Goals

- Raise awareness of justice initiatives focused on older adults.

- Support statewide collaboration and development of potential solutions to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and address other issues related to justice for older adults.
  - Promote the rights and autonomy of older adults.
4. Meetings: The CEJC Steering Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year (i.e., quarterly). Members of the CEJC are encouraged to attend the quarterly Steering Committee meetings.
  5. Organizational Structure of the CEJC

The organizational structure includes general membership and a Steering Committee.

- A. Membership: Membership in the Coalition is open to all interested public and private stakeholders with a desire to promote the rights of older adults and to advocate for the prevention of older adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Individuals and organizations may sign-up for membership, at no cost, by completing and submitting a membership application form.
  - i. Expectations of CEJC Members: CEJC members are expected to partner, promote, and advance the stated mission and goals of the CEJC. Members are encouraged to provide input regarding the interests of the agency or organization that they represent and promote older adult justice awareness and advocacy within their agency or organization with the goal of improving coordination of state and private resources when responding to older adult justice issues. CEJC members may be asked to participate on Action Teams to provide the viewpoint of their organization or agency; advise on the availability of agency resources; and to provide their professional knowledge and skills within their area of expertise.
- B. Steering Committee: The Steering Committee advises, guides, and has final decision-making authority over CEJC activities. It is comprised of ten (10) to twenty (20) Member Organizations that oversee the general operations of the CEJC. Ideally, the Steering Committee is comprised of an equal number of private and public Member Organizations, each of whom have specialized knowledge about older adult advocacy and abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
  1. Composition of Steering Committee may include, but is not limited to the following Member Organizations (agencies, groups, entities, individuals, or industries):

Department of Aging and Disability Services, Bureau of Aging  
 Long-term Care Ombudsman's Office  
 Department of Social Services

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Department of Developmental Services  
Department of Consumer Protection  
Department of Banking  
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
Connecticut Office of the Attorney General  
Office of the Chief State's Attorney  
Municipal Law Enforcement  
Domestic Violence Service Provider  
Banking Industry  
Geriatrics/Medicine  
A Representative of the Older Adult Population

2. Member Organizations that comprise the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs shall be appointed in accordance with the bylaws. Member Organizations shall appoint an individual and an alternate to represent their organization at Steering Committee meetings.
3. Key Functions
  - a) Strategic Planning: The Steering Committee sets annual goals for the Coalition with input from the Coalition members. The Steering Committee also works to identify members of the Coalition whose expertise and talents can be used to advance older adult justice goals and initiatives.
  - b) The Steering Committee may be called upon to mediate or resolve disputes or conflicts that arise between or among Coalition members.
  - c) There shall be two Co-Chairs of the CEJC, one from the public sector (local, state or federal government agency) and another from the private sector/non-profit. The Co-Chairs are responsible for organizing, coordinating, and facilitating monthly meetings and leading the CEJC alongside of the Steering Committee. Co-chairs serve on the Steering Committee and are generally selected from Steering Committee membership.
4. The Steering Committee shall meet quarterly and, on an ad -hoc basis. Meeting agenda and meeting minutes will be posted in accordance with State Freedom of Information Act requirements.

## 6. CEJC Action Teams

The Coalition works to fulfill its mission through Action Teams comprised of CEJC members. Action Teams can be formed or dissolved by majority vote of the Steering Committee.

