

## Legal Services

### **Children's Law Center Legal Law Line**

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

860-232-9993

The Children's Law Center

30 Arbor Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: 860-232-9993 or 1-888-LAW-DOOR (529-3667)

Fax: 860-232-9996

Free legal advice for families law custody issues, etc.

The mission of the Children's Law Center is to protect the interest of indigent children in family court and to advocate policies which advance their well-being and best interest. Through its programs and services the Children's Law Center strives to create safe, stable environments for children whose parents are in chronic conflict. To achieve these goals the Children's Law Center administers the following programs: providing legal advocates to children through representation, staffing a free legal help-line that gives information and referrals on topics related to family law and children's rights, low-cost mediation services and parent education, training and support for lawyers who represent children, and advocating for positive systemic change regarding the rights and treatment of children.

### **Child Support Enforcement Bureau**

249 Thomaston Ave.

Waterbury, CT 06702-1397

General Information: (203) 597-4000

<http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&q=305182>

The goal of the Child Support Enforcement Program is to improve the self-sufficiency of families through increased financial and medical support and to establish paternity for children born out of wedlock. This program locates absent parents, establishes paternity, establishes and modifies orders of support, and collects and distributes child support payments. Child support services are available to both custodial and non-custodial parents, regardless of their income.

Child support collected for TFA families is reflected when calculating the monthly grant amount. As of October 1, 2001 the first \$50.00 of any current child support collected each month is disregarded and passed through to the custodial parent. (Note: Prior to October 1, 2001 the child support disregard was \$100.00 per month. The exception being the welfare reform control group which received \$50.00 per month). Child support payments collected for non-TFA families are sent directly to the custodial parent.

DSS administers the program in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General, and the Support Enforcement Services Unit of the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch enforces the child support orders and reviews and modifies orders; the Attorney General provides legal representation for the program in court.

## **Connecticut Family Support Network**

Alice Buttwell  
1074 Main St  
South Glastonbury, CT 06073  
(860) 430-5679  
(860)350-6025  
<http://www.ctfsc.org/>

A great resource for families raising children with disabilities. A regional representative can help the family get connected with other families in their area for support, and also help with other resources and advocacy.

Support networks for parents raising children with disabilities meet across Connecticut monthly and offer a variety of educational and social opportunities. Network provides advocacy, referrals to state agencies, moral support, training opportunities relevant to parents raising children with disabilities, and a connection to the legislature.

## **Connecticut Legal Services**

<http://www.connlegalservices.org/>  
85 Central Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06702  
Phone: (203) 756-8074  
Fax: (203) 754-0504

Connecticut Legal Services is a private, non-profit, civil law firm dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals obtain justice. The bulk of our work consists of providing civil law representation and counseling to thousands of low-income families and individuals each year. We help our clients use the law to meet basic life needs.

## **Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund**

135 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-3701  
860.247.6090  
Toll Free: 800-479-2949  
<http://www.cwealf.org/>

CWEALF is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives.

We educate individuals through direct contact to navigate the legal and social service systems effectively by: explaining the law in easy to understand terms, developing and disseminating booklets on specific legal rights, and making referrals to attorneys and other service providers.

We provide training, technical assistance and resources to employers, schools, and community

organizations by: educating individuals and organizations about legal rights and responsibilities, increasing awareness of gender inequities, and offering practical applications and solutions.

We work to improve laws and policies that affect women, girls and their families by: identifying critical issues through research and client contact, focusing public attention on those issues, and recommending, advocating and implementing reforms

We are guided by our commitment to feminism, diversity, empowerment, personal responsibility and self-sufficiency, compassion and respect, collaboration, professionalism and self-assessment in all of our actions and programs.

## **Prudence Crandall Center, Inc**

<http://www.prudencecrandall.org/>

P.O. Box 895

New Britain, CT 06050

Domestic Violence 24-hour Hotline: 1-888-774-2900

(860) 225-5187

Provide caring support, beneficial information and individual advocacy to women, men and children who are victims of domestic violence. Provide emergency shelter to women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. Educate our community to reduce and ultimately eliminate domestic violence. 24 Hour Crisis Hotline, Emergency Shelter, Individual Counseling, Support Groups, Legal Advocacy, Information and Referrals, Community Education, Children's Programs.

## **State Wide Legal Services of Connecticut**

425 Main St # 2

Middletown, CT 06457

(860) 344-0380

1-800-453-3320

<http://www.slsct.org/Home/PublicWeb>

**The Network:** The legal services programs in Connecticut are a group of nonprofit organizations which provide legal assistance in civil matters to low-income persons. Services are free. Eligibility depends upon income, family size, assets and legal issue.

**Working Together:** The programs work together to advocate for (and with) people who are low income, on a variety of issues. In addition to individual legal advice and representation, the legal services programs help clients, community groups, and providers through free trainings, pamphlets and other information.

**How to Get Assistance:** Generally, applicants should call Statewide Legal Services first to find out if they qualify for services. Call 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.