



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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Member Agencies

The Umbrella
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program
United Services
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse
Enfield, CT

Domestic Abuse Service
Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program
United Services
Willimantic, CT

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For Immediate Release
New Domestic Violence Law Strengthens Orders of Protection and Law Enforcement's Response

Hartford, CT- Newly created domestic violence law would allow a restraining order to be in place to protect a victim for up to one year and creates model policy for all law enforcement in the state. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them, today called legislative changes a true step forward in the advancement of strong policy aimed at protecting state residents.

House Bill 5548: An Act Concerning Domestic Violence includes many new provisions that consist of increased accountability for domestic violence abusers enrolled in the Family Violence Education Program, the extension of restraining orders from six months to up to one year, and enhanced strategies for locating offenders for service of process. In addition, the new law institutes a statewide model policy for law enforcement's response to family violence, strengthens the violation of orders of protection and improves safeguards for college students.

Over the past decade, Connecticut has averaged 16 domestic violence homicides annually. The law also creates a Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council to evaluate law enforcement policies and procedures related to domestic violence. In 2011, CCADV and representatives from five member agencies served on the General Assembly's Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence. A host of recommendations from the group was included in the bill. Notably, Connecticut's new law changes the state's stalking and harassment statutes to include email and text messages.

Last year, Connecticut experienced some 37,500 criminal court cases where there was an arrest on a domestic violence charge, up from 35,400 in 2006. This figure constitutes one-third of all cases in the state's criminal court system.

"Our statewide coalition works to keep victims of domestic violence safe and safer at the end of each day," says Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director of CCADV. "With more than 200 calls for assistance to our emergency hotline made daily, the need for comprehensive and strong measures is evident. We are so pleased to see these meaningful reforms put in place."

Each year, CCADV member agencies serve over 54,000 victims of domestic violence through hotline, safe housing, court advocacy, counseling, and referral.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide coalition which works collaboratively with its 18 community based domestic violence agencies in Connecticut. Each agency offers free services to victims 24-hours-a-day to include hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups and help to obtain a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at 888-774-2900.