



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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**SHENKMAN GUILTY VERDICT IMPORTANT STEP IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETATOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

In response to the guilty verdict applied to Richard Shenkman yesterday in Hartford Superior Court, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV) today called for a greater emphasis in the establishment of a consistent statewide policy as it relates to protections for victims of domestic violence. The guilty verdict is an important step forward as it speaks to batterer accountability. "Mr. Shenkman perpetrated a number of serious domestic violence crimes against his former wife, Nancy Tyler," said Karen Jarmoc, Interim Executive Director at CCADV. "This case offers a sharp reminder that domestic violence is in fact a crime in Connecticut and batterers should be held accountable for their hideous actions."

In July, 2009, Richard Shenkman kidnapped his ex-wife, Nancy Tyler, at gunpoint, took her to the home they once shared, held the police at bay for thirteen hours, and then burnt the house to the ground. Ms. Tyler had previously obtained a protective order as a result of previous instances of abuse at the hands of Shenkman, whose actions in and out of court painted an unnervingly typical picture of the mindset of a domestic violence abuser. He refused to stand accountable for his own actions, even through the trial process, attempting to use the insanity defense to avoid responsibility for the 2009 ordeal. The jury in his Hartford Superior Court trial, however, saw through the insanity plea and Shenkman's history of blaming his abusive behaviors on mental illness.

Yesterday, with Ms. Tyler standing nearby in the courtroom, Shenkman was found guilty of first-degree kidnapping, first-degree arson, third-degree assault, possession of a pistol without a permit, violating a protective order, attempted assault on a police officer, interfering with police, first-degree threatening and two counts of second-degree threatening. Most likely, the 62-year-old former ad exec will spend the rest of his life behind bars, and Ms. Tyler's terrifying experience with the cycle of domestic violence has come to a merciful end.

Last year, 30,000 protective orders and 7,500 restraining orders were issued in Connecticut criminal and civil courts. CCADV is seeking stronger protections for victims with such orders. Statewide victim advocates maintain that such orders of protection may be violated numerous times without consequence. Connecticut's statewide coalition is pushing for the institution of stricter penalties for the violation of a protective or restraining order. In total, over 54,000 victims sought services last year from 18 community-based agencies which also offer 24/7 crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, and safe accommodations. These programs comprise CCADV, the state's domestic violence leadership organization. Help may be accessed statewide by calling 888-774-2900.

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*Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV), is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to change social conditions through policy advocacy, public awareness, technical assistance and education. The current membership of the CCADV includes private, non-profit agencies providing services to victims of domestic violence.. To learn more about CCADV, please visit [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org).*