

Post Conviction Proceedings

**Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes:*

§ 51-196, any victim may appear before the Sentence Review Division and make a statement concerning a defendant's application for a sentence review.

§ 53a-29(g), a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning whether the defendant's probation should be terminated early.

§ 53a-39, a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning a defendant's motion for a reduction of sentence or discharge.

§ 54-126a, any victim may appear at a hearing before the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make a statement concerning whether the inmate should be released on parole or the nature of any terms or conditions to be imposed upon any such release.

§ 54-130d, any victim may appear at a session held by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make a statement concerning whether the board should grant a pardon, commutation or release.

“You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

-Martin Luther King



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The Right to Attend

Crime victims have a State Constitutional right to attend the trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend, unless such person is to testify and the court determines that such person's testimony would be materially affected if such person hears other testimony





Court Proceedings

Crime victims have a right to attend all court proceedings in the prosecution of the defendant. While the criminal justice process can last several months, and even years, crime victims may choose to attend some or all of the court proceedings.

**Pursuant of Connecticut General Assembly Statutes:*

§ 54-85f, any victim of a violent crime or the legal representative or member of the immediate family of a victim who is deceased shall be permitted to attend all court proceedings that are part of the court record.

§ 54-85c, a representative of a homicide victim shall be entitled to be present at the trial or any proceeding concerning the prosecution of the defendant for the homicide. No representative may be excluded without a hearing.

§ 54-85d, prohibits an employer from terminating, threatening, or otherwise coercing an employee who attends criminal court proceedings as a family member of or person designated by a homicide victim.

§ 54-85b, prohibits an employer from terminating, threatening, penalizing or otherwise coercing an employee because the employee obeys a legal subpoena to appear in court or attends or participates in the court proceedings as a crime victim.

§ 54-91c(b), prior to the imposition of sentence and prior to the acceptance of a plea agreement by the court, the court shall permit any victim of the crime to appear before the court for the purpose of making a statement to the court concerning the defendant's sentence and plea agreement.



** This summary of legal rights is subject to the full text of the statutes. Victims are entitled to rights as set forth in the statutes. If you don't understand your legal rights, you may wish to speak with an attorney or contact the Office of The Victim Advocate.*

Diversion/Rehabilitation Programs

**Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes:*

§ 17a-696, a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning a motion for suspension of prosecution for a defendant seeking treatment for alcohol and/or drugs.

§ 46b-38c(h)(2), a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning a defendant's application for entry into the Family Violence Education Program.

§ 54-56e, a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning a defendant's application for entry into the Accelerated Pre-trial Rehabilitation Program.

§ 54-56g, a victim who has suffered a serious physical injury may appear in court and make a statement concerning a defendant's application for entry into the Pre-trial Alcohol Education Program.

§ 54-56l, a victim may appear in court and make a statement concerning a defendant's application for entry into the Pre-trial Supervised Diversionary Program for persons with psychiatric disabilities.