

GIVE VICTIMS TIME



ELIMINATE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIMES IN CT

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE 
Support. Advocate. Prevent.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE LOBBYING

Give Victims Time

Eliminate the Statute of Limitations on Sexual Assault Crimes

LOBBYING IS: Seeking to influence a politician or public official's position on a specific issue. A good lobbyist is well-informed and able to communicate in an enthusiastic, honest, and respectful manner.

GET INFORMED

For most sexual assault crimes, Connecticut law provides survivors of sexual violence with a *mere five-year criminal statute of limitations*. This is the window of time in which the state can bring criminal charges against an offender. Connecticut has the third shortest statute of limitations in the country and the shortest overall in New England. The impacts of sexual violence can last a lifetime, but for survivors of sexual violence, the chance to seek help through our criminal justice system does not. Read our fact sheet for more information on the issue.

INITIATE CONTACT

Identify your legislators: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>. Make an appointment to meet with a legislator face-to-face. Be sure you are addressing your legislator correctly (e.g. Senator Smith, not Joe). You can feel free to bring another ally or two with you for support. If there is a specific informational sheet or document you would like the legislator to reference or read, bring them a copy. Follow-up within 24 hours after this meeting with an email thanking the legislator for listening to your perspective.

If you cannot arrange a face-to-face meeting with a legislator, it is acceptable to call, email, write, or fax. When using any of these mediums, you should remain brief and to the point. Identify yourself and where you live, clearly state the bill or issue of interest, and use your own words to communicate your perspective. If referencing an informational sheet or document, attach a copy for the legislator.

TELL YOUR STORY

If you have been personally affected by the statute of limitations on sexual assault crimes, sharing your story can be an incredibly beneficial way to help your legislator better understand the importance of the issue. With this, you must be careful not to allow your emotional involvement in the issue to cloud your facts. Remain honest and accurate. As you would expect your legislator to be upfront and kind to you, mirror the same behavior to them.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

The more people advocating for a cause, the better. Share this issue with your family and friends, and encourage them to lobby to **Give Victims Time** alongside you.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
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Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence Member Centers

