



The Legal Status of Indian Tribes in Connecticut

The State of Connecticut recognizes five Indian tribes on six reservations:

- Golden Hill Paugussett Indian Tribe
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- Mohegan Tribe
- Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Tribe
- Schaghticoke Tribal Nation

Only the Mashantucket Pequot Nation and the Mohegan Tribe are federally recognized. When a tribe gains federal recognition, certain federal benefits are available to that tribe. For example:

- Medical and dental care
- On-reservation clinics or hospitals
- Educational programs and grants
- Housing assistance
- Social services (for example, funding for Indian Child Welfare services)
- Social and economic development (community and technical assistance programs)
- Tribal government and tribal court development
- Law enforcement
- Resource protection and energy development programs
- Historic and cultural preservation

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The Quinnehtukqut Legal News is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. and is funded in part through a grant from the Legal Services Corporation. The views expressed by individual authors in this Newsletter are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.

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We Want to Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

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The articles in this paper are meant to give information, NOT to give legal advice. No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts.

Federal Funding Programs For State-Recognized Tribes

As of January 2012, the United States identified 566 “federally recognized” Indian tribes. Federally recognized tribes qualify for benefits that are not available to the more than 400 non-federally recognized tribes across the country. In April 2012, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report called “Federal Funding for Non-Federally Recognized Tribes.” The GAO report identifies 34 federal programs and grant opportunities available to: 1) State recognized tribes; 2) Tribes on state reservations; and 3) Tribes on or in proximity to a state reservation.

Non-federal tribes across Connecticut can apply for many of these opportunities. Some programs may also be available to tribal communities and other groups that self-identify as Indian tribes but that are not federally or state recognized. These programs address issues of:

- Poverty
- Unemployment and underemployment
- Housing
- Education
- Job training
- Native language preservation

Only 24 non-federally recognized tribes received federal funding from these programs from 2007-2010. None of those tribes were in Connecticut. Reasons for this may include lack of tribal resources for grant writing, or tribal communities not knowing these programs and grants exist.

This article highlights some of the programs that non-federally recognized tribes in Connecticut can access. Please use this information as a starting point to research these and other funding opportunities available through the federal government. The grant programs discussed below are broken into 4 categories:

- 1) *Housing and Community Related Assistance*
- 2) *Employment Related Assistance*
- 3) *Education Related Assistance*
- 4) *Health and Human Services Related Assistance*

1) Housing and Community Related Assistance Programs

Rural Housing Preservation Grants:

- These grants assist very low and low-income rural residents, individual homeowners, and rental property owners.
- Grant money is used to repair or rehabilitate dwellings and bring them up to development or code standards.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Community Facilities Loans and Grants:

- These loans or grants assist tribal governments develop essential community facilities in rural areas (areas of up to 20,000 people).
- Projects include hospitals, clinics, schools, community centers, and other community-based projects.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Indian Community Development Block Grants:

- These grants are available to Indian tribes and some tribal organizations.
- Grant money is used to provide community facilities;

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Although there are some federal programs that state-recognized tribes qualify for (see the article entitled “Federal Funding Programs For State-Recognized Tribes”), overall, there is far less federal support for state-recognized tribes. It is up to individual states to determine if they will provide state recognition for non-federal tribes and if so, if special laws, programs, or services it will be available. This article talks about what state recognition means for Indian tribes in Connecticut and the structure and support in place for those tribes and tribal lands.

State Recognition in Connecticut

Regardless of a tribe’s federal status, a state can recognize Indian tribes within its borders. State recognition does not mean that a tribe will be federally recognized, but it can give tribes special protections under state law. Connecticut has laws in place that address interests and issues of Indian tribes and tribal members, such as:

- Tribal self-government
- Creating Indian Housing Authorities
- Criminal and civil jurisdiction on the reservation
- Hunting and fishing laws
- Tax laws
- Land rights
- Civil rights and discrimination
- Creation of the Indian Affairs Council

Other State regulations address the health of Native Americans, provide municipal programs for minority businesses, and deal with fair housing and equal opportunity issues.

The Indian Affairs Council

In 1973, Connecticut law created the Indian Affairs Council (IAC) for the benefit of state-recognized tribes. The IAC is designed to have 3 members appointed by the governor and one member from each of the 5 state-recognized tribes. As structured, two of the IAC’s most important roles are, 1) looking out for the well-being of tribes and tribal lands, and 2) carrying the concerns of tribes and tribal members back to the State.

The law is designed to give tribes a way to voice their concerns and have their issues addressed. The IAC is supposed to review regulations having to do with Indian affairs and monitor conditions on the reservations. The IAC is then supposed to advise the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEP) on what areas, buildings and lands need improvement or management, and what services and programs reservation communities need. The IAC can also help individual Indian residents. An Indian resident “without sufficient means to support himself” can petition the IAC for assistance. The IAC can provide assistance in “an amount necessary to maintain a standard of living” that is best suited to the well-being of that resident.

The same law that created the IAC also gave the DEP responsibility to address the interests of state reservations and Indian communities. By law, “all reservation buildings not privately owned are subject to the care and management” of the DEP.

Other Rights Under State Law

In addition to the role of the Indian Affairs Council, other laws are in place for the benefit of state-recognized tribes and tribal communities. Some examples are:

Self-Governing Entities

Connecticut law outlines ways for tribes to “self-govern.” The 5 recognized tribes are considered “self-governing entities” that have certain powers and duties. Including the power to:

- Determine tribal membership and residency on the

reservations

- Determine the tribal form of government
- Regulate trade and commerce on the reservation
- Make contracts
- Determine tribal leadership

Indian Housing Authorities

Each tribe can create and run its own on-reservation Housing Authority. A tribal housing authority has all of the same rights and functions as a municipal housing authority. Indian housing authorities can request assistance or apply for grants from the State for housing improvement projects on the reservation.

Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction

The State has criminal jurisdiction on state-recognized reservations. This means that state criminal law applies even if the incident involves an Indian and occurs on the reservation. State police can come onto the reservation to enforce criminal law. It also appears that the State has civil jurisdiction in most matters and over Indians of state-recognized tribes. The State may not have civil jurisdiction on the reservation if it would interfere with powers of tribal self-government. However, Connecticut courts are not entirely clear on what matters are left to the tribes as self-government matters. Courts have said that not all issues relating to tribal decisions are necessarily off-limits for state courts.

Hunting and Fishing

There are a couple of different hunting and fishing laws in place for Indians who hunt or fish on the reservation. In some cases, laws waive permit requirements or licensing and permit fees for on-reservation hunting subject to bag limits and seasonal hunting dates.

Taxes

Tax laws are slightly different on state reservations. Connecticut exempts all reservation land held in trust by the state for an Indian tribe from property taxes. Motor vehicles that are garaged on the reservation and owned by a member of a tribe (or his or her spouse) are exempt from property taxes. All other state tax laws apply to state-recognized Indian tribes and reservations.

Indian Burial Sites and Remains

Special laws and protections are in place for Indian burial sites and skeletal remains. For example, if someone thinks that human burial grounds or remains are being or are about to be disturbed or damaged, they should notify the state medical examiner and the state archeologist. An investigation will take place to determine the age of the remains and how to preserve the site or remove and rebury the remains.

Summary

State recognized Indian tribes have certain protections in place under Connecticut law. One of the most important is the creation of the Indian Affairs Council. The IAC is supposed to play a critical role in getting State assistance to the tribes so they can maintain their lands, buildings, and a decent standard of living. The IAC and laws specific to tribes and tribal members are designed to protect the interests of Indian communities across Connecticut.

Contact Information:

Indian Affairs Council, Edward Sarabia, Coordinator
(860) 424-3066

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
(860) 424-3000

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expand job opportunities; and improve housing, roads, and water and sewer facilities.

- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rural Business Opportunity Grants:

- The purpose of this grant is to encourage sustainable economic development in rural tribal communities with exceptional needs.
- Exceptional needs include: communities in poverty, communities with long-term population decline, or communities with significant job deterioration.
- Grants can be used for projects that encourage community economic development, technology-based economic development, and leadership and entrepreneurial training.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2) Employment Related Assistance

Native American Employment and Training:

- Funding is provided directly to the tribe.
- The tribe then provides employment and training activities for economically disadvantaged, unemployed, or underemployed tribal members.
- The money is used to develop academic, occupational, and literacy skills, and to make tribal members more competitive in the workforce.
- Types of programs that could be funded by this grant include: classroom training, on the job training, day care, youth employment programs, and job search assistance.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Labor

3) Education Related Assistance

Indian Education Assistance Through Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEA):

- These grants are available to Local Education Agencies (LEA's). LEA's are public boards of education or other authorities with administrative control of public schools.
- The funding is available to LEA's that enroll a minimum of 10 eligible Indian students or not less than 25% of the total number of enrollment. If the school is on or close to a reservation, the enrollment requirement may not apply.
- The purpose of the grant is to establish, maintain, and operate projects designed to help Indian students meet State education standards.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Education.
- American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
- Funding for vocational rehabilitation services to Indians with disabilities living on federal or state reservations. Vocational rehabilitation helps prepare people for employment.
- A disability is defined as a "physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment."
- Eligible tribes must be state recognized and have a state reservation.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Education

Special Demonstration Grants for Indian Children:

- The purpose of this grant is to improve educational opportunities and achievement of Indian children by creating new services and programs.

- Examples of projects include school readiness projects to prepare Indian students for entry into kindergarten, and college prep programs for high-school students.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Education.

4) Health and Human Services Related Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP):

- LIHEAP money allows tribes to help low-income households meet their energy needs and pay for home energy.
- Households receiving other federal benefits (such as SSI, Food Stamps, or TANF) often qualify for LIHEAP.
- This grant is available through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Weatherization Assistance Program:

- Grants are awarded to tribal governments.
- The tribal government distributes the award to low-income families to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Energy.

Community Services Block Grants:

- The purpose of this grant is to provide programs and services to communities in poverty. The target population is low-income individuals that are unemployed or receiving public assistance, at risk youth, public housing residents, homeless persons, disabled persons, and individuals transitioning from prison.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Improvement of the Capability of Tribal Governing Bodies to Regulate Environmental Quality
- The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for tribes to create a tribal environmental regulatory structure. Once in place, the environmental programs regulate environmental activities on Indian lands.
- Examples of possible programs include: creating regulations and laws to protect the environment; developing programs to carry out tribal environmental programs; training and education of tribal employees; and developing ways to meet tribal and federal environmental requirements.
- This grant is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Preservation and Enhancement of Native American Languages Program:
- This grant provides funding to eligible tribes to assist with the survival and continuing vitality of Native languages.
- Grants fund projects that involve the promotion of sustainable tribal communities.
- This grant is available through the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), within the Department of Health and Human Services.

SUMMARY

The above federal programs are just a few that are available to non-federally recognized Indian tribes in Connecticut. Grant money can be used to help tribal communities address education, housing, employment and other poverty-related issues. As with any grant, the writing and application process can be demanding. It requires detailed proposals, attention to documentation, and filing deadlines. Some grants are available every year, others for blocks of years. There is a Grants.gov registration process. Once the funding is granted, the tribe is

Debt Collection: Understanding Your Rights

When a creditor or collection agency is trying to collect a debt from you, the law gives them ways to do that. First, the creditor or collection agency can call and/or send notices through the mail. If you do not respond to these calls and notices, the creditor or collection agency can attempt to collect the debt through court.

When you receive any type of notice from tribal or state court about a debt that you owe or that someone claims you owe, do not ignore it. Make sure you understand who is collecting the debt and how much the debt is for. Read the notice carefully and pay attention to deadlines and court dates. Plan to appear in court on the correct date and time for your hearing.

The following article deals with some common questions that people have about debt collection and their legal rights. This is not a substitute for legal advice. It is a starting point to assist you if you find yourself in a debt collection situation.

Is there a difference between a creditor and a debt collection agency?

Yes. A creditor is the person or business you originally borrowed the money from or took out the line of credit with. For example: a credit card or car loan company.

A collection agency is a business or person that is trying to collect payments on behalf of the original creditor. It can be someone that your creditor sold your loan to or hired to collect the debt. It is not the business that you initially borrowed the money from.

What if I am not sure whether I owe the debt?

If you receive a notice from a creditor or collection agency, read it carefully. If you don't think you owe the debt or if the amount is incorrect, contact the collector immediately.

Contact the debt collector in writing within 30 days of receiving the notice. In your letter state that you do not think you owe the debt and that you want proof of the debt amount. The collector must send you that proof.

If you co-signed a loan for another person, you are still responsible for that debt just as if you had taken the loan out yourself.

Can I ask that the debt collector stop contacting me?

Yes.

If you would like the debt collector to stop contacting you, notify the debt collector in writing. Your letter should say that you refuse to pay the debt or are unable to pay the debt. Clearly state that you are requesting that the debt collector stop contacting you.

If you are being contacted by a collection agency, it must stop communicating with you about the debt.

The creditor may stop contacting you, but is not required to unless it is using harassing or abusive practices.

What if I think the creditor or collection agency is harassing me?

It is against the law for debt collectors to harass you. It is against the law for them to use abusive, harassing, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading practices to collect the debt.

Harassment and abusive practices include:

- Phone calls before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
- Continuous or repeated phone calls intended to annoy or harass you
- Contact from the debt collector at your work place if the debt collector knows that your employer does not allow such contact
- Threats of violence or threats to your reputation or

property

- Obscene or profane language
- False representation. For example:
- Misrepresenting the amount of your debt or who the debt collector is;
- Threatening action that the debt collector does not intend to take;
- Contacting other people about your debt (including your family, friends, and employers).

What can I expect if I receive a collection notice and am asked to appear in court?

When you get a court notice, contact an attorney or Statewide Legal Services for assistance. They will help you understand the court process and your rights.

There are important deadlines that you must follow. Read the notice carefully. If you miss your court date or filing deadline, you may lose your chance to challenge the debt.

Collections cases up to \$5,000 are often heard in Small Claims Court.

When you go to court, the judge will decide if you owe the debt. This is your chance to dispute the amount or prove you do not owe the debt.

If you lose in court or miss your court date, the judge will order you to pay the debt.

If I cannot afford to pay my debt, what can the debt collector do?

It depends on the type of debt you owe.

If your debt is to a utility company, contact the company immediately. Try to set up a payment plan so that your services are not disconnected. Utility companies have programs in place to help you pay your bills, make your bills more affordable, and avoid shut off. Utility companies have rules they must follow before shutting off service

If you owe money on an item that can be repossessed (taken back) – for example a car or an appliance – the seller can repossess it if you fall behind on payments.

If you owe money on an item or service that cannot be repossessed – for example a hospital bill - the creditor may take you to court.

If I can't afford to pay my debt, can the debt collector take my income or property?

Some of your income and property is exempt from debt collection. It cannot be used to pay off your debts.

The following list is some of the exemptions under Connecticut law.

Property exemptions include:

- Necessary clothing, bedding, food, household furniture and appliances
- Tools, books, instruments, farm animals and livestock feed that are necessary to your job or farming operation
- One motor vehicle up to the value of \$3500 (determined by "fair market value")
- Wedding and engagement rings
- Your homestead – up to the value of \$75,000. But if the debt arises from medical services from a hospital, the homestead exemption is increased to \$125,000.
- A homestead is property that you own and live on as your primary residence.

Financial exemptions include:

- Public assistance payments (for example, TANF)
- Health and disability payments
- Worker's compensation, Social Security, Veteran's, and

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Unemployment benefits

- Child support payments

Wage exemptions:

- Some of your wages may be exempt from debt collectors. It will depend on how much you make, what your “disposable income” is, and the minimum wage.
- If a creditor is trying to take any portion of your tribal per capita payments to satisfy your debt, you should contact an attorney immediately.

What if I was served with a collection notice in the past, but did not go to my court date?

If you were served with a collection notice in the past but did not go to court or settle the debt, the creditor may have gotten a default judgment against you. This means the court has decided that you owe the debt.

If there has been a default judgment against you, you will probably get a court notice to go to a disclosure hearing. Do not ignore this notice.

What is a disclosure hearing?

If you get a notice to appear for a disclosure hearing, it is too late to dispute the debt. To dispute the debt, you must go to your first debt collection hearing

At the disclosure hearing, the judge will decide whether you have any income or property that the law allows the creditor to take.

Bring a list of all of your income and expenses, assets and debts to your disclosure hearing.

Even if the judge decides that you cannot pay anything at that time, your debt will not go away.

If the creditor’s attorney wants to make a payment arrangement with you before the hearing, talk to an attorney first. If you cannot speak to an attorney, wait until the judge can hear your case. Do not make a payment agreement that you cannot afford.

In Summary

The debt collection process can be complicated. Anyone who is on public assistance should not agree to a court order to make payments. Before agreeing to any payments, please call an attorney or Statewide Legal Services. Statewide Legal Services may be able to offer you free assistance over the phone, or refer you to another attorney or Legal Services organization that assists low-income people in civil legal matters.

Contact Information:

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut (800) 453-3320, or (860) 344-0380 (<http://www.slsct.org/>)

Racial Profiling: What To Do If You Encounter The Police

Racial profiling is the law enforcement practice of targeting a person for police searches, investigation, or arrest based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. It is unconstitutional and violates basic human liberties and civil rights. Reports of racial profiling come from Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Muslims and other minority groups. Many minorities say that because of their appearance, they are subjected to “spontaneous” police procedures more often than non-minorities. Nationwide studies suggest this is true.

Whenever you are stopped or questioned by law enforcement, it is important to be cooperative. It is also important to know your rights. This article addresses racial profiling laws in Connecticut and nationwide and also informs you about some of your rights if you encounter law enforcement. Please note: the rights discussed below may not be the same for non-citizens. There are immigration consequences that can result from non-citizens being involved with law enforcement. For information about non-citizen’s rights, contact an immigration attorney or immigration clinic.

Racial Profiling in Connecticut

In Connecticut, it is illegal for law enforcement agencies to use racial profiling as the sole reason for police action. Police cannot investigate, detain, or treat people differently simply because of their race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation. Connecticut police departments must also collect and report data about traffic stops, detentions, searches and complaints of police discrimination.

Federal Racial Profiling Laws

To date, racial profiling cases have largely been brought as violations of the Fourth or Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. The Fourth Amendment protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees citizens equal protection of the laws. But neither of these protections is directly on point in racial profiling cases.

In response to nationwide complaints of racial profiling, the “End Racial Profiling Act” is currently being discussed in Congress. If passed, it would make racial profiling by federal law enforcement agents illegal. The text of the Act defines racial profiling as the practice of law enforcement relying “to any degree” on race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in selecting who to subject to routine or spontaneous police procedures. The Act calls on federal law enforcement agencies to create policies designed to end racial profiling and programs to train law enforcement on how to avoid racial profiling. Members of both Houses of Congress have sponsored the Act. If you are interested in this proposal, contact your . congressman, congresswoman, or U.S. senator.

Knowing Your Rights

In any situation where you are involved with law enforcement, it is important to know your rights and feel comfortable asserting them. The rest of this article deals with how to calmly handle encounters with law enforcement.

Right To Remain Silent and Right To An Attorney

Two important constitutional rights you should know when dealing with law enforcement:

- You have the right to remain silent
- You have the right to an attorney

When talking to the police anything you say can be used against you. It is your constitutional right to remain silent, but it



Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization that gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems in Maine.

Pine Tree operates a special Native American Unit from its Bangor, Maine office. This unit is staffed by attorneys and paralegals in offices located throughout Maine. In the Native unit we help clients with many civil legal issues related to their Native American status.

Pine Tree attorneys are not licensed to practice law in Connecticut. However, the Native American Unit may be able to give information and help to low-income Native Americans in Connecticut with federal legal problems, such as questions about the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Jay Treaty. Pine Tree can also refer cases to lawyers in Connecticut. The telephone number for Pine Tree Legal’s Native American Unit is 1-800-879-7463.

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is against the law to lie to law enforcement. Simply tell the officer “I want to remain silent.” If you want to contact a lawyer before answering questions, tell the officer that you want to speak to a lawyer. In both cases, the officer should stop questioning you. If he or she continues, repeat that you want to remain silent and that you want to talk to a lawyer.

You can assert these constitutional rights any time, even if you have already answered questions. You can assert these rights even if you are detained, arrested, or in jail.

If Law Enforcement Asks You For Identification

If you are asked to identify yourself or asked for your ID, tell the officer your name or show your ID. You do not need to answer any other questions.

If you are stopped while driving, you are required to show proof of ID (and proof of registration and insurance). You do not need to answer any other questions.

In 2006, the Connecticut Supreme Court decided a case in which a man refused to identify himself to an officer. The court ruled that if a person refuses to identify him or herself or refuses to show identification when asked, they can be charged with getting in the way of (“impeding”) a police investigation.

If You Are Stopped While Driving

If you are stopped by law enforcement while you are driving, you will be asked to show your driver’s license and proof of registration and insurance. If the officer asks you to get out of your car, get out of your car slowly. Do not argue with the officer. Remember your rights.

- You have the right to remain silent and to an attorney.
- Police can search your car under three circumstances:
- Police can search your car with your permission (consent). If the officer asks if he or she can search your car, you can refuse. Tell the officer that you do not consent to a search.
- Police can search your car without your permission if the officer has “probable cause.” This means the officer has reason to believe that criminal activity has taken place.
- Police can search your car if you are arrested.

If you don’t know whether the officer is asking for your consent to search your car or ordering you to allow a search, ask. If it is not an order, tell the officer that you do not consent to a search.

For example, if the officer says, “I would like to look in your trunk” – ask the officer if that is an order. If it is not, clearly tell him that you do not consent to a search. If he continues, do not stop him. Write down his name, badge number, and police agency and contact an attorney.

If an officer thinks you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the officer can ask you to take a breath test and/or coordination tests. If you refuse, you can be arrested. If you do not pass the tests, you will be arrested. If you are arrested, your car can be searched.

Stop And Frisk

Officers can stop and detain you only if they have a reasonable suspicion that you have been involved in a crime or are about to commit a crime. Being detained is not the same as being arrested. If you are not sure why an officer has stopped you or whether you are free to go, ask the officer. If you are detained, remain with the officer until you are told you are free to go. Identify yourself if the officer asks you to do so. Even if you are detained, you do not have to answer any questions.

If you are detained, an officer can “frisk” you. A frisk is when the officer pats you down outside of your clothing to find out if you have a weapon. If the officer thinks he or she feels a weapon, the officer can reach inside your clothing for the

weapon. If no evidence is found, you will likely be released. Try to stay calm, do not resist, and do not argue with the officer.

If Officers Come To Your Home

Officers can search your home with your consent or with a search warrant.

Consent:

- Consent to enter and search your home can be given by you, your roommate, a houseguest, or someone who the police believe has the authority to allow them in (even a school-aged child).
- If you do not want the police to search your home without a warrant, make it clear to anyone who is staying at your home not to consent to a search.
- If you do not consent to a search, say to the officer, “I do not consent to a search.”
- Your landlord cannot consent to a search of your home or apartment UNLESS it is written in your signed lease. Read your lease!
- If your employer consents to a workplace search, your work area can be searched.

Search Warrant:

If officers come to search your home, ask if they have a search warrant.

- If they do not, tell them you do not consent to the search.
- If officers do have a warrant, ask to see it before allowing them in your home.
- Make sure the information on the search warrant is correct.
- If the warrant is wrong, tell the officers what is wrong with it. Tell them you do not consent to the search.
- If officers proceed with the search without a warrant and without your consent, do not resist. Write down the officer’s name and badge number, take notes, and call a lawyer. Remember; even if officers have a search or arrest warrant, you can use your right to remain silent.

Things To Remember When Dealing With Law Enforcement

- Speak clearly and calmly
- Do not argue with the officer
- Do not touch the officer or move toward the officer
- Do not run from the officer
- Keep your hands where the officer can see them
- Do not resist arrest (even if you are innocent)
- Do not make any statements. Use your right to remain silent.
- Ask to speak to a lawyer
- Write down or remember officers names and badge numbers
- If you feel you have been mistreated or racially profiled, write down the events of the incident and try to find witnesses
- If you are injured by law enforcement, seek medical attention immediately. Get photos of the injuries and a copy of the medical report.

Racial Profiling and Your Rights: In Conclusion

Native Americans are among the groups of people that disproportionately encounter law enforcement. Racial profiling laws in Connecticut are in place to protect you and federal law is currently being considered. If you feel you have been treated differently by law enforcement because you are Native American, you should contact an attorney for information about your legal rights and remedies. In any law enforcement encounter, it is important that you know your rights.

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required to follow reporting requirements.

Tribal governments and communities may find it worthwhile to research these and other programs. Tribes are encouraged to check the agencies' websites for more details and for opening and closing dates. Call the grant agency if you have any questions.

Helpful On-Line Information:

The complete GAO report can be found at
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/590102.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture website:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>

The U.S. Department of Education website:
<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html>

The U.S. Department of Energy website: <http://energy.gov/>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website:
<http://www.hhs.gov/grants/>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website: <http://www.hhs.gov/grants/>

The U.S. Department of Labor website:
<http://www.hhs.gov/grants/>

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Remember you can always assert your right to remain silent and to an attorney. It is also important that you remain calm and cooperate. Never resist an officer. If you think your rights have been violated, write down the officer's name and badge number and the details of the encounter. Then contact an attorney for more advice.

Helpful Information:

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut
 (800) 453-3320, or (860) 344-0380

Text of the "End Racial Profiling Act":
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/s1670/text>

American Civil Liberties Union website:
<http://www.aclu.org/national-security/know-your-rights-when-encountering-law-enforcement>

LEGAL RESOURCES

Civil Legal Matters:

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut:

- Free civil (not criminal) legal assistance to low-income individuals. Individuals must income-qualify for legal services.
- Services include: Family law, public benefits, housing matters, consumer issues, and work and unemployment issues
- Statewide Legal Services advocates may refer you to another free legal services provider for help with your issue.
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.slsc.org/>
 - (800) 453-3320, or (860) 344-0380 (from Middletown and Hartford)

Greater Hartford Legal Aid:

- Assists low income people with civil legal matters
- Helps low-income people represent themselves in civil legal matters.
- Takes referrals from Statewide Legal Services of CT (see above). Call Statewide Legal Services to see if you income-qualify.
- Services include: Family law and domestic violence, employment, disability, homelessness and housing issues, elder law, and government benefits
- Promotes rights of individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Greater Hartford Legal Aid is part of the AIDS Legal Network.
- Contact information:
<http://www.ghla.org/>
 – (860) 541-5027
 – (888) 380-3646 for the AIDS Legal Network

New Haven Legal Assistance Association:

- Free legal services to low-income people in New Haven and the Lower Naugatuck Valley
- Services include: Family law, child protection, consumer, housing, workers rights, criminal defense, and immigration issues
- Takes referrals from Statewide Legal Services of CT (see above). Call Statewide Legal Services to see if you income-qualify.
- Call New Haven Legal Assistance directly if you are an undocumented individual in need of legal services.
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.nhlegal.org/>
 - (203) 946-4811

Connecticut Legal Services

- A private, non-profit civil law firm dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals obtain justice.
- Contact information:
 - www.connlegalservices.org/ContactCLS.htm

Children's Legal Matters:

The Center for Children's Advocacy:

- Legal representation for abused and neglected children.
- Advocates for children's legal rights and helps young people find the services they need for support.
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.kidscounsel.org/>
 - (860) 570-5327

LEGAL RESOURCES

The Children's Law Center:

- Legal representation to low-income children in very difficult family court cases ("chronic conflict cases")
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.clcct.org/>
 - (860) 232-9993

Lawyers for Children America:

- Free legal assistance from attorneys protecting the rights of children who have been abused or neglected
- Contact information:
 - www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org
 - (860) 273-0441

Criminal Legal Matters:

CT Public Defender Services:

- For low-income individuals who cannot afford an attorney for a criminal matter.
- The criminal matter must carry a risk of jail time.
- Also provides representation and guardian ad-litem services to low-income children and parents in child welfare, family, and child support matters.
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.ct.gov/ocpd/site/default.asp>
 - (860) 509- 6400

New Haven Legal Assistance Association:

- Free legal services to low-income people in New Haven and the Lower Naugatuck Valley (see "Civil Legal Matters" above)
- Takes criminal referrals from the Public Defender's Office
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.nhlegal.org/>
 - (203) 946-4811

Specialized Legal Assistance:

AIDS Legal Network for Connecticut:

- Collaboration of legal services organizations in CT
- Legal Services include: Discrimination, family law, advance directives, immigration, and confidentiality assistance for individuals living with HIV/AIDS
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.ghla.org/aln/index.htm>
 - (888) 380-3646, or (860) 541-5000

CT Fair Housing Center:

- Legal housing advice for low-income people
- Services include assistance with: Equal access to housing matters, foreclosure, and housing discrimination
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.ctfairhousing.org/>
 - (888) 247-4401, or (860) 247-4400

CT Legal Rights Project:

- Free legal services to low-income adults with psychiatric disabilities.

- Assists with legal matters related to: Inpatient hospital issues, treatment, recovery, civil rights, access to housing, and other issues related to the client's psychiatric disability
- Contact information:
 - <http://www.clrp.org/>
 - (877) 402-2299, or (860) 262-5030

Other Helpful Contact Information:

CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN):

- Statewide network of organizations dedicated to issues affecting low-income individuals and communities
- Advocates for, and educates low-income individuals
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.larcc.org/cabhn>
 - (860) 278 -5688

Connecticut Department of Social Services:

- Assists individuals and families find support services and assistance to maintain a basic standard of living and self-reliance
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.ct.gov/dss/site/default.asp>
 - (800) 842-1508

Connecticut Indian Council:

- Part of the greater Rhode Island Indian Council, which promotes social, economic, and cultural well-being of Native individuals and communities
- Assists Native individuals with job training, job placement, and tuition assistance
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.riindiancouncil.org/>
 - (860) 535-1277

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

- Responsible for management of Indian affairs in Connecticut including improving buildings, areas, and lands on state reservations and in Indian communities
- Contact Information:
 - <http://www.ct.gov/dep/site/default.asp>
 - (860) 424-3000

Indian Affairs Council, Edward Sarabia, Coordinator:

- Responsible for looking out for the best interests of tribes and tribal lands.
- Responsible for being in contact with and available to tribal communities and advising the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on Indian affairs.
- Contact Information:
 - (860) 424-3066