



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**For Immediate Release
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Member Organizations

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Dayville, CT

The Network
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA**
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services**
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
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**
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New Domestic Violence Law Set to Take Effect October 1st

*-Subjects of temporary restraining orders to be
prohibited from possessing firearms-*

Hartford, CT – Beginning October 1st, individuals who have been notified that they are subject to a court-ordered temporary restraining order will no longer be able to possess firearms or ammunition during the days leading up to their hearing.

"This new law represents a significant step in Connecticut's efforts to protect victims of domestic violence at the most dangerous time," said Karen Jarmoc, CCADV chief executive officer. "Women in abusive relationships are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser has access to a gun. Temporarily limiting access to firearms when a victim seeks a restraining order and takes that first step to leave is the right thing to do to protect her or his safety."

Following successful, bipartisan passage of Public Act 16-34 led by Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Representatives William Tong (D-Stamford), Robyn Porter (D-New Haven) and Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford), respondents of ex parte restraining orders will no longer be able to possess firearms or ammunition once they have been served with the order. All orders must be served within 3 days of the hearing, and hearings on ex parte restraining orders must occur between 7 and 14 days after the date of the order. Individuals subject to these orders must temporarily surrender firearms and ammunition to law enforcement or sell them to a federally-licensed firearms dealer within 24 hours of notification of said order. The new law also explicitly outlines procedures by which firearms and ammunition surrendered to law enforcement must be returned within 5 business days of a request by the respondent for their return if a permanent order is not put in place and if the respondent does not have face any other statutory disqualifications.

Governor Malloy said, "When an instance of domestic violence rises to the point that a temporary restraining order is needed, we must do everything we can to prevent tragedy. Women in abusive relationships are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser has access to a firearm. Between 2000 through 2015, Connecticut averaged 14 intimate partner homicides per year, and firearms were the most commonly used weapons. Now, Connecticut will take a commonsense step towards strengthening and enhancing our gun violence protection laws."

Last week CCADV released the most recent findings of the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, which found that firearms remain the single most commonly used weapon in intimate partner homicides – used in 41% of the 222 intimate partner homicides in Connecticut between 2000 and 2015 (click here to view the report). Connecticut has averaged 14 intimate partner homicides annually since 2000.

"Preventing violence against women is one of my top priorities, and this law will do just that," said Representative William Tong (D-Stamford). "This legislation is, and always

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has been, about keeping victims of domestic violence safe at the most dangerous time, when they are trying to end an abusive relationship. I am grateful that Connecticut has now joined with 20 other states that provide a similar level of protection to victims.”

"Well, October 1st, 2016 will certainly be a great day throughout the State of Connecticut because Public Act 16-34 will officially be in effect and women and men who are victims of domestic violence will have the protection they so rightfully deserve when their abusers are known to own firearms," said Representative Robyn Porter (D-New Haven). "Indeed, this is a tremendous victory and this common sense law will go a long way in saving the lives of CT residents across the state. After all, the ultimate constitutional right is the right to LIVE and that right unequivocally supersedes an abuser's right to carry a gun. This law truly is a preventive measure that will save many lives and I am proud to have been one of the legislators who led the charge of its passing in the House."

"I applaud the passage of this critical legislation that will protect victims of domestic violence from gun violence," said Representative Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford). "We know when domestic abusers have access to a gun that women are five times more likely to be killed. This legislation is a common sense, safety measure that will help save lives. Thank you to CCADV and CT Against Gun Violence for your tremendous work in getting this legislation passed."

Following two years of intense debate, the General Assembly passed Public Act 16-34 with strong bipartisan support in the House by a vote of 104-42 and in the Senate by a vote of 23-13. The General Assembly recognized the dangerous combination presented by domestic violence and firearms, including the fact that domestic assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force. At least 20 other states give courts the explicit authority to temporarily remove firearms from some or all individuals who are subject to a temporary restraining order.

Said Jarmoc, "we look forward to working with our partners in law enforcement, the Connecticut Judicial Branch, and those who serve as State Marshals to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of this new law."

Between 2000 and 2015, 222 victims have been killed in Connecticut as a result of intimate partner violence, including 190 women (86%) and 32 men (14%). Intimate partner homicides make up 13% of Connecticut's overall homicide rate, with the parties most often being married (35%). Thirty percent (30%) of Connecticut's intimate partner homicides result in murder/suicides, of which 79% of those murder/suicides are committed with a firearm. Victims and offenders of intimate partner homicide in Connecticut are most often between the ages of 25 and 34.

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. We are a membership organization of the state's 18 domestic violence organizations. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the statewide hotline at 888.774.2900 (English) or 844.831.9200 (Español). Victims can access shelter, counseling, support groups, children's services and court advocacy through our members. For more information, please visit www.ctcadv.org.