

School Violence Prevention Program



The Pretrial School Violence Prevention Program allows certain public or private school students who are charged with an offense involving the use or threatened use of physical violence in or on the property of a public or private school or at an activity connected with the school to attend a one-year school violence prevention program instead of going to trial. Students who want to take part in the Pretrial School Violence Prevention Program must meet the eligibility requirements in section 54-56j of the Connecticut General Statutes and must submit an application to the court.

When a student applies for this program, the court file is sealed, and the student is sent to the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) for assessment and confirmation of eligibility. During the assessment and confirmation, CSSD will ask the student and the student's parents or guardians to swear that they do not possess any firearms, dangerous weapons, or controlled substances, or anything that is illegal. The student will also have to agree to the tolling of the statute of limitations (to give the state more time to prosecute the case if the student does not successfully finish the program), to waive (give up) the right to a speedy trial, and to take part in and complete the assigned School Violence Prevention Program.

If the court grants the student's application, and the student and the student's parents or guardians agree to the conditions, the student will be sent to CSSD to be put into a school violence prevention program for 1 year. The school violence prevention program will require the student to take part in at least 8 group counseling sessions in anger management and nonviolent conflict resolution. CSSD will keep track of the student's participation in the assigned program and will make sure that the student is following any other court orders during the program.

If the student finishes the School Violence Prevention Program successfully, and one year has gone by since the student was put in the program, the court will dismiss the charges against the student.

The student's parents or guardians will be required to pay the cost of the school violence prevention program to the program provider. That payment cannot be made to the Clerk's Office. The court may decide that the parents or guardians do not have to pay the program provider's fees, though, if the court finds that the parents or guardians are unable to pay or are indigent.



The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact your Probation Officer or an ADA contact person listed at www.jud.ct.gov/ADA/.

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