TABLE ON PENALTIES

Crimes

The law authorizes courts to impose fines, imprisonment, or both when sentencing a convicted criminal. For most crimes, the court may also impose a probation term. For eligible offenders, the court may order participation in various programs, such as accelerated rehabilitation or the pretrial alcohol education program, and dismiss the charges upon the offender's successful completion of the program.

When sentencing an offender to prison, the judge must specify a period of incarceration. The prison terms below represent the range within which a judge must set the sentence. A judge may suspend all or part of a sentence unless the statute specifies it is a mandatory minimum sentence. The judge also sets the exact amount of a fine, up to the established limits listed below. Repeated or persistent offenses may result in a higher maximum than specified here

Classification of Crime	***Imprisonment***	***Fine***
Class A felony (murder with special circumstances)	Life, without release	up to $20,000
Class A felony (murder)	25 to 60 years	up to 20,000
Class A felony (aggravated sexual assault of a minor)	25 to 50 years	up to 20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	up to 20,000
Class B felony (1st degree manslaughter with a firearm)	5 to 40 years	up to 15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	up to 15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	up to 10,000
Class D felony	up to 5 years	up to 5,000
Class E felony	up to 3 years	up to 3,500
Class A misdemeanor	up to 1 year	up to 2,000
Class B misdemeanor	up to 6 months	up to 1,000
Class C misdemeanor	up to 3 months	up to 500
Class D misdemeanor	up to 30 days	up to 250

Violations

CGS § 53a-43 authorizes the Superior Court to fix fines for violations up to a maximum of $500 unless the amount of the fine is specified in the statute establishing the violation. CGS § 54-195 requires the court to impose a fine of up to $100 on anyone convicted of violating any statute without a specified penalty.

A violation is not a crime. Most statutory violations are subject to Infractions Bureau procedures, which allow the accused to pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance. As with an infraction, the bureau will enter a *nolo contendere* (no contest) plea on behalf of anyone who pays a fine in this way. The plea is inadmissible in any criminal or civil court proceeding against the accused.

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between $35 and $90, plus a $20 or $35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. There may be other added charges depending upon the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. With the various additional charges the total amount due can be over $300 but often is less than $100.

An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.