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*Communities are safer with rational laws  
that focus on prevention of sexual harm and  
the healing of all those affected by it.*

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***Any sexual offense is one too many.***

## **CAMPAIGN HANDBOOK**

*OSJ is a volunteer-based civil rights organization committed to ensuring that persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses in Connecticut are treated constitutionally and fairly by the state before, during, and after their sentences.*

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## 1) What is One Standard of Justice (OSJ)?

Established in 2016, **OSJ** is a 501(c)(3) non profit, civil rights organization comprised solely of volunteers here in CT.

**OSJ** is committed to ensuring persons who have been accused or convicted of sex offenses in CT are treated fairly and constitutionally by the state before, during and after their sentences.

This year, **OSJ Action** is being created to help **OSJ** move the **PAID IN FULL** campaign forward. **OSJ Action** is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit social welfare organization of volunteers committed to legislative reform in support of persons accused or convicted of sex offenses.

## 2) What is the work of **OSJ** and **OSJ Action**?

Our work includes legislation, litigation, and education. **OSJ** speaks to reinforce prevention, treatment and restorative justice - more healing less punishment — as the means to create and sustain healthy, safe communities. **OSJ Action** is specifically focused on working with legislators to improve Connecticut's laws.

## ~Legislation~

We follow the legislature and speak in public hearings to oppose bad bills and support the good ones. We are introducing our first proposed bill dubbed ***PAID IN FULL*** winter of 2022-23.

In 2022 the legislature proposed a bill that would have automatically rejected nursing home and long-term care applicants who had been on the Sex-Offense Registry-- resulting in a health care crisis.

## ~Litigation~

Our first complaint was filed in federal court in 2017 demanding that Windsor Locks revoke its child safety ordinance denying our community the right to go to places within the community - schools, sporting events, parks, town pools, senior citizen residences. Windsor Locks chose to revoke the ordinance rather than proceed with expensive litigation the town council felt ultimately they'd lose.

In the summer of 2022 **OSJ** filed its second child safety zone ordinance complaint against the town of Bristol.

## ~Education~

**OSJ** brings informational and educational events to Connecticut. Prior to Covid-19, we hosted in-person screenings of David Feige's award-winning

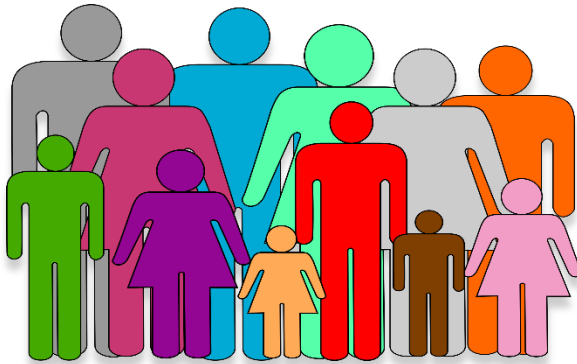
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documentary Untouchable. We've been invited into churches, educational institutions and partnered with the CT chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

In 2021 we began sponsoring on-line webinars with world-renowned experts on the real risk to reoffend; Restorative Justice and other topics. Our webinar series will start again Winter of 2022. As in the past series, we are proud to be co-sponsored by Senator Gary Winfield, chair of the Judiciary Committee.

### 3) Who are the **OSJ** volunteers?

Many of our Volunteers are people with loved ones on the registry or are on the registry themselves. We represent a wide range of communities across the state.



## 4) What is ***PAID IN FULL*** (PIF)?

***PAID IN FULL*** (***PIF***) is the name of **OSJ Action's** Legislative Campaign.

The focus of this campaign is to remove from the Connecticut Sex Offender Registry those people who had completed their sentences before the implementation of the Registry overhaul on October 1, 1998, but were required to register outside of the judiciary process.

The law that was created in 1998 included a 10-year lookback, pulling in people who had never heard of the Registry when they were released. These people were rebuilding their lives when the burden of the Registry was placed upon them, threatening their housing, employment, and family.

More than 800 people have spent at least the last 25 years on the CT Registry without another sexual offense conviction. They have proven they are not the danger that the stigma of their offense makes them out to be. It has been a quarter century since they trusted that they had repaid their debt to society, yet they and their families continue to endure hardship because of the Registry.

Enough is enough, these people have long ago paid their debts. Indeed, they have ***PAID IN FULL***.

## 5) Who is in the retroactive group?

Men and women who were convicted of a sexual offense, served their sentence and were released back in to the community prior to October 1, 1998. The state of Connecticut looked back 10 years and placed these people on the public registry ultimately for life. Current law doles out 10 year or lifetime registration.

## 6) What about my family and friends?

When a person is placed on the CT SOR their address is posted. Anyone who resides at the listed address shares in the public harming (shaming) in spite of never being convicted of a crime. Our friends and loved ones, even our children, are often met with bullying, homelessness or unsafe housing, job loss and financial insecurity, physical and emotional altercations. We call these the collateral consequences of “secondary registrants.”

We want to encourage you to get your loved ones involved with the **PAID IN FULL (PIF)** campaign as this is equally relevant to them. Their support and storytelling will be helpful in informing our legislators as to the vast harm being done to them.












## 7) What can I do to support the ***PAID IN FULL (PIF)*** campaign?

I'm glad you asked.

Listed below is a chart of activities depicting **OSJ**'s role and yours. For us to be successful we are depending on committed partners with **OSJ** in the ***PAID IN FULL (PIF)*** campaign.

ACTION	OSJ	YOU
First Letter sent out to Individuals	✓	
Respondents reach out to <b>OSJ</b>		✓
Meet-ups	✓	✓
Survey to be completed	✓	✓
Second letter sent out to individuals on R. (Encouraging participation in PIF campaign)	✓	✓
Letter to be mailed to legislators		✓
Schedule meetings with your Legislator		✓
Conference calls to check in and prepare for next steps	✓	✓
Follow up with legislators' office to get meeting. (Prefer in person)		✓
Produce & Distribute Educational media and marketing materials	✓	✓



Short videos - storytelling		
Write 3 minute testimonials		
Attend public hearings at LOB		
Attend Campaign Rallies		
Share event dates and materials with others		
Support by participating		
Support by speaking your truth		
Support by donating		

## 8) What are the **OSJ PAID IN FULL (PIF)** talking points?

- The individuals who were part of the 'lookback' were **unfairly** placed on the registry
  - They did not consider the registry when determining what legal response to make to their charges.
  - They were initially provided the chance to request removal after 10 years, which was amended out of law.
- The individuals in this cohort have **demonstrated they are not a risk** to their communities.

- Research has shown that after 10 years, those who have not re-offended are of no more risk than the rest of their community.
- Being on **the SOR causes harm** to these individuals, their families and loved ones.
  - As they enter their senior years, individuals who are registered have a more difficult time finding supportive housing and the medical care they need.
  - Children and grandchildren are hurt by the stigma of having a family member on the SOR.

## 9) What the ***PAID IN FULL (PIF)*** campaign is NOT about?

- It's **NOT** about:
  - the effectiveness or fairness of the SOR
  - the effectiveness or fairness of the legal system
  - the offense any of the individuals may have committed
  - non-sex related convictions, or technical violations of probation/parole

## 10) What can I do to support **OSJ**?

Would you rather assist **OSJ** with its educational work and service to our constituents? **OSJ** needs more hands, and is in need of ongoing financial support. Consider making a recurring monthly donation or a one-time only donation at [OneStandardofJustice.org](http://OneStandardofJustice.org). There is much work to be done to raise the awareness of the plight of people on the registries and their families. We will continue with this important work. While we seek relief to our community, we also want to protect future generations.



[www.OneStandardOfJustice.org](http://www.OneStandardOfJustice.org)

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***One Standard of Justice (OSJ) is a 501c3, non-profit organization and affiliate of the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL).***