

## OSJ 2025 Legislative Action

The legislative session has just ended in Connecticut, and with it we give a sigh of relief. Election years can bring out the most dangerous legislation; we have been granted a small reprieve-- nothing very harmful passed. In our legislature, OSJ has been busy laying the foundation for next year's push: three bills that will end some of the 'exceptional status' that puts our people under a separate system of justice.

The next legislature officially starts in January 2025. However, over the summer and into the Fall OSJ will be meeting with legislators and doing the needed research on the bills we hope the Judiciary Committee will support. OSJ will be in full throttle immediately after the November election.

**Paid in Full is back.** The bill will remove people who were unlawfully placed on the registry between 1988-1998. Here is the link to last 2023's Paid In Full bill SB1194:

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2023&bill\\_num=1194](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2023&bill_num=1194)

**Relief from late letters to verify addresses and decriminalize homelessness.** Too many people are getting arrested for late address verification letters or having no address often resulting in pleading to a class D felony with or without negative consequences--typically 45 days incarcerated or three years' probation. Both are unacceptable when people are leading law-abiding lives.

**Early termination of probation** – to provide all people with the opportunity to petition the court for a hearing and give judges the discretion to grant early termination of probation. When convicted of a crime of a sexual nature, people face 10-35 years of probation. Probation was intended as an alternative to incarceration. No matter, 10-35 years community supervision is just unnecessary and not in the best interest of public safety.

## Meetups Scheduled in Stamford & Bridgeport

The OSJ is delighted to come to meet you in your community! Please remember, no one under 18. We are looking for a space in Danbury for June/July and New Haven for July. It is time to get to know us (better) and our work. We hope to see more people involved in the organization. To move legislation, it takes a community!

### STAMFORD

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - 9:30 to 11:30AM**

at the

**Stamford Community Health Center**

(2nd floor)

22 Fifth Street, Stamford, CT 06901

### BRIDGEPORT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8 - 1:30 to 4:00PM**

at the

**Bridgeport Public Library**

(Beardsley Branch community room)

2536 E Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

## *Fearless (or Fear-Less)* Emotional Support Group Update

Fearless, for those forced to register and their friends and family, has been meeting successfully in Zoom since January. Its purpose is to provide experience, strength, and hope to all persons forced to register and their loved ones. Meetings are about 90 minutes. Each meeting has a different topic which helps us stay focused and not dwell on the past. Our most recent topic was “How important is it?” Everyone is given the opportunity to share, however sharing is voluntary.

We vet everyone to ensure that all participants are members of our community. Currently we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm. In the Fall, we hope to start a second Fearless group that will meet once a month on a Saturday morning, also on Zoom. It is an honor to be the current

Fearless facilitator. If you have any questions, please contact Jen at:

[JenJasenski@OneStandardOfJustice.org](mailto:JenJasenski@OneStandardOfJustice.org)

To sign up to receive invitations to the Fearless meetings, fill out the form here:

[OneStandardOfJustice.org/Fearless](https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/Fearless)

## Phone Scams Are On The Rise

Unfortunately, the phone scams continue with the same initial caller – sometimes saying he is with Judicial or the Hartford registry or the town of “” police– wrong! The state of CT will never ask you for money over the phone, threaten arrest or any other negative consequence if you fail to comply with the caller’s demands. You should do two things—first inform Middletown or the local police; second, let OSJ know through the OSJ submission form so we can keep everyone apprised.

[OneStandardOfJustice.org/Scam-Protection](https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/Scam-Protection)

## Submitting Address Verification Letters by Email

Unfortunately, a considerable number of people have been arrested because of late letters. We reported in the fall of 2023 that based on new legislation passed, you can now email your letter! This is vastly improved from the USPS – and saves money.

### **Excerpt from the bill that went into effect October 1, 2023:**

*Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall verify the residence address of each registrant by mailing a non-forwardable verification form to the registrant at the registrant's last reported residence address. Such form shall require the registrant to sign a statement that the registrant continues to reside at the registrant's last reported residence address and **return the form by mail, facsimile or electronic mail** by a date which is ten days after the date such form was mailed to the registrant. The form shall contain a statement that failure to return the form or providing false information.*

Link to the entire bill/public act:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/pa/pdf/2023PA-00193-R00SB-00969-PA.pdf>

Easy breezy steps to email your letter:

- 1) Sign your Letter
- 2) Take a picture of the letter. Make sure the picture shows your current address and your signature.
- 3) Email it to: [SORU@ct.gov](mailto:SORU@ct.gov)

Usually, your information on the Registry website will be updated within 24-48 hours. We suggest that you or a loved one check the registry page in a day or two and well ahead of the due date.

In addition, there is a service that tells you what is arriving in the mail on any given day – called USPO Informed Delivery.

<https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm>

Using this service is the only way with certainty to know whether your letter has been mailed from Middletown. Unfortunately, Middletown has shared what we have always known, that some of our mail (especially address verification letters) are often stolen. If you don't receive your address verification letter, call Middletown immediately to let them know and, most importantly, to avoid a violation.

## Voting Is Necessary, Your Purest Voice

Participating in the outcome of elections is a means of restoring your value as a citizen and in returning some control over events to your life. It is a pro-social act and leaves you with the dignity that you deserve after meeting your obligations under the criminal legal system. Please register to vote and participate in elections. The elected legislators are the same people who will be voting on bills that can help or harm this community. Please access detailed information on voting and finding your legislator here.

[OneStandardOfJustice.org/Voting](https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/Voting)

Some of us haven't voted for decades or may not remember if we are still registered to vote. OSJ

needs every person to understand their rights, learn about local legislators and show up to vote. Do not hesitate to call your local Registrar of Voters in plenty of time ahead of November.

## Keeping Your Information On Our Database Up-To-Date Is Critical!

Those of us on the Registry certainly can be a group that moves around a lot. Perhaps you have a new cell phone. OSJ asks that you update your information by completing the OSJ submission form with the new information to so that we can continue to keep you informed.

[OneStandardOfJustice.org/Contact-Us](https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/Contact-Us)

## First Amendment Rights Here In CT – Your Action Needed

In this opinion piece published by the CT Mirror, a Connecticut resident reveals how laws targeting those convicted of a sex offense have been weaponized by lawmakers, the courts and the police.

Arrested in 2015 for late delivery of the quarterly letter sent to CT registrants to confirm their address and, in 2018, for failing to 'file' an email address with the police, he tells a story which, while offering appreciation for the commitment to First Amendment protections, vigorously condemns how other rights of registrants have been consistently stripped away with little or no pushback from anyone in power or, frankly, from those who voted those people into power.

We hope that as more such stories are told more hearts and minds will be opened. Then, perhaps, laws directed solely toward sexual offenses will be abolished or, at a minimum, the mitigation of those laws which are recommended in the piece will be adopted.

He won his case! The court case gave the author of the story relief from filing his IP identifiers with Middletown. Of special note, OSJ is seeking

a plaintiff to work with our attorney to broaden this win so it applies to everyone on the registry in CT. The suit would protect all CT citizens from ever being arrested for failure to communicate email addresses or having stacked charges brought up.

<https://ctmirror.org/2024/05/16/ct-sex-offender-registry-laws/>

## Pardon and Wellness Program

OSJ is super thrilled to be helping people with the pardon process eliminating the need for an attorney. OSJ is focused on improving the lives of our constituents. A grant from the Bissell Foundation supports OSJ's pardons workshop and wellness program for 24+ participants. We aim to see many clients in public hearings by the end of the year. You will be delighted with our program! Our vision is to greatly expand in 2025. Please complete the pardon interest form to be placed on the wait list. Right now, we are seeking clients from Hartford to begin a Hartford only group of up to ten people.

[OneStandardOfJustice.org/Pardon](https://OneStandardOfJustice.org/Pardon)

In closing OSJ depends on dedicated volunteers and dollars to do our work. We need both! We are especially looking for people with technical skills to work on websites, graphic designers/creative folk to help with marketing materials. Ahead of the 2025 legislative session we need people to join the OSJ legislative workgroup.

And finally, and most importantly, we need you and your loved ones to communicate with your legislators in person, in writing, at events with OSJ at the Capitol. SHOW UP, STAND UP, SPEAK UP! Please and thank you!