



Hamden Meetup, December 2024

November/December Annual Meetups Scheduled

We will be visiting the towns of Hartford, Hamden, Waterford, and Danbury for informal open houses and presentations. **Please sign up on our website: OneStandardOfJustice.org/SignUp**. Details for Danbury and Waterford will be emailed to those who sign up.

Refreshments will be served.

Free parking at all meetups except Danbury

Hartford

SATURDAY, November 1

Lyceum Resource & Conference Center

227 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106

10 AM – 1 PM (Brunch will be served)

Hamden

FRIDAY, November 14

Whitneyville Cultural Commons

The Putnam Room

1247 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

6 PM – 8:30 PM (Dinner will be served)

Danbury

Saturday, November 22

1:30 PM – 4 PM (Coffee and Pie)



Waterford

SATURDAY, December 6

1:30 PM – 4 PM (Coffee and Pie)

Fatherhood Conference: August 14-15, 2025

Building Strong Families Begins with a Whole-Family Approach

Increasing father involvement in children's lives strengthens families, which leads to happier, healthier, and safer communities. As you know, our community faces special challenges. The carceral system often splinters families, rather than reunifying them. It diminishes rather than supports fathers' presence in the lives of their children.



OSJ was delighted to not only attend the Fatherhood Initiative's annual 2-day Fatherhood Conference, but for the first time to be a proud sponsor of it as well. This year's theme was The Power of Presence focusing on empowering fathers to adopt an active and intentional presence in their children's lives. Additionally, OSJ had a vendor's room table. A special thanks to two members of our community who spent a day with OSJ's president staffing the table and participating in the program.

2023-26 Legislative Campaigns

OSJ knows that our community cannot thrive without changing the laws we live under. Success only happens with volunteers like ***you***. This year we strengthened our connections with legislators by introducing them to their constituents that are on the registry. We also held our first annual Pie Social at the Capitol. Our bill reforming address verifications for the registry came so close that we are determined to push for it again this year.

What Happened with Paid In Full?

In 2023, OSJ advanced a bill (SB 1194) — under the campaign “Paid In Full” to remove hundreds of people from the registry who were forced to register in 1998, unjustly and without any court action. Although our bill passed in the senate and we counted enough votes to pass it in the house, the bill was eventually tabled without a vote because debate was too contentious.

In 2025, supportive legislators asked if OSJ was bringing this legislation forward again. We could only push for one bill last year (our ‘Address Verification Bill’), but took note that the issue is still on the minds of legislators. We can and will advocate for this bill again. OSJ is working on our legislative priorities for this coming year, and we are exploring all alternatives to get individuals off the registry as quickly as possible—through pardons, court action and legislative reform.

Late Letter Verification Law

In the last days of the session, reform language made it into the budget bill. The proposed law (SB 1500) would have:

- ❖ Increased the number of days to return a signed letter to 20 days from 10 days
- ❖ Allowed people that didn't get the letter to request a new one, providing an additional 20 days to return the re-issued letter
- ❖ Lowered the penalty for an unintentional late letter from a felony to a misdemeanor

- ❖ Required the state to show intent for any felony ‘failure to verify’ charge – right now a felony charge is ‘strict liability’ meaning a felony charge is almost automatic if a letter arrives late

Unfortunately, there were some technical problems with the language that couldn’t be fixed in time, so the language was cut. CT Inside Investigator ran a story on what happened that you can access here:

[*OneStandardOfJustice.org/CT-Inside*](https://www.onestandardofjustice.org/CT-Inside)

Protect Yourself from a ‘Failure to Verify’ Charge

OSJ knows how anxious waiting for the Verification Letter can be. The relatively new email submission system provides greater control and confirmation that the letter has been received and processed.

Go to our page to see how to submit your letter by Fax and Email:

[*OneStandardOfJustice.org/Email-Verification*](https://www.onestandardofjustice.org/Email-Verification)

****Reminder****

When you email your letter, you will now receive a response acknowledging receipt of the verification letter. Please contact OSJ to let us know if you are having any problems.

Arrests for failure to verify over late letters are still happening and can come with a high price: bonds of up to \$150k, court time, and new felony record.

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

You can find the bill allowing fax and email verification here:

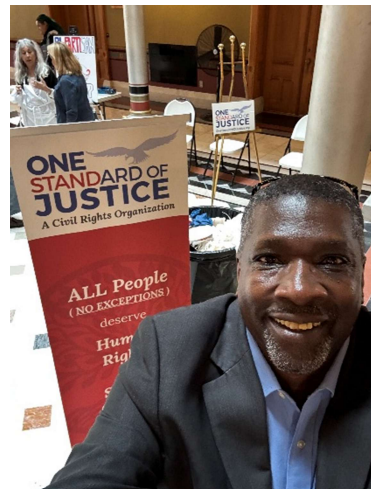
[*www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/pa/pdf/2023PA-00193-R00SB-00969-PA.pdf*](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/pa/pdf/2023PA-00193-R00SB-00969-PA.pdf)

OSJ’s First Annual Pie Social at the Legislature

On May 28th, OSJ showed up at the CT Capitol with dozens of pies from Michelle’s Pies out of Norwalk, and volunteers to serve them up to hungry legislators and aides. The venue provided an opportunity for us to show that we are an important

2023-26 Legislative Campaigns – Continued

part of their community while we shared stories about the unjust burdens we bear on the registry. Thank you again to all who helped us purchase the pies and/or volunteered to serve them. This will become an annual event for us.



You Have the Power to Make Positive Change

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

Here are a few of the things you can do to make a difference in our fight:

- ❖ Register to Vote! All adults in CT are eligible to vote, except for those who are incarcerated. The people who get elected are the ones who vote for or against our bills. If you're not registered, sign up to vote via the link on our voting page.
 - ❖ Find your state senator and representative using the link on our voting page.
 - ❖ Call your legislators and/or write them a letter telling a bit about your story and asking them to support OSJ's reform efforts. OSJ has templates and tools you can request from us by using our contact form.
 - ❖ It takes many hands pulling together to make the changes we need to see in CT. We are always looking for people who will tell their stories to legislators in virtual forums.
- A little more about a virtual forum. Some legislators want to get to know our community better. OSJ accomplishes this by creating safe-spaces for small groups to speak directly to a legislator via Zoom. By sharing stories about your experience with the criminal legal system and the harms the Registry causes to you and your families, we place a human face to the people impacted by the law. We've found the legislators to be very empathetic and can relate well. OSJ has two legislators waiting to hold meetings now. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to us via our contact form. The only requirements are honesty and authenticity.
- ❖ Show up at one of our 'Open Mic' events held online. The next Open Mic Nights will be held via Zoom on Monday, October 13 7:30PM and Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 11AM. We announce events and send Zoom links through email and text to those who sign up on our contact form.
 - ❖ Support us financially—letters, mass emails, flyers etc. come at a financial cost. We depend on **you** for the dollars that keep our lights on. Give what you can afford and be part of our team.

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

Probation Reduction

Most people convicted of a sexual offense face lengthy probation terms when they return from incarceration. Sentencing in CT includes enhanced conditions that make it harder to reintegrate with our communities, and a mandatory 10-35 year term. For all other offenses, there is a maximum 5 year limit on the length of probation.* Making it worse, those assigned longer probation terms are denied court review that is provided for all other offenses.

There is no evidence that this excessive probation results in public safety. OSJ's proposed legislation would eliminate the carve-out preventing judicial review, providing people burdened with lengthy probation the opportunity to demonstrate in court that their probation should be reduced or terminated.

* cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_952.htm#sec_53a-29

Op-Ed: A Mother on the Registry

OSJ is proud to feature *A Mother on the Registry* written by a CT resident who, once she found her voice, became a proponent of self-advocacy and wanted to amplify the trials of parenting while on the public Registry. We have used a pseudonym (CWS) rather than disclose her name to protect her children. This is storytelling at its very best and will be submitted to independent news media as an op-ed.

My children mean the world to me. Like any good mother I try to support them as much as I possibly can; I work 60 hours a week just to make ends meet. However, I am not like most mothers. No matter how hard I try, I'm not able to be there for them the way I know I should be. What keeps me from being a normal, supportive mother is something intrusive, something I have absolutely no control over.

I do my grocery shopping early on Sunday mornings. With my work schedule, it's the only time I can get there when there isn't a crowd. The other day I was in line behind a woman with a 4 or 5-year-old little girl in her cart. The girl was breathlessly chatting her mom up about her favorite breakfast cereals. As I was going over my list making sure I hadn't forgotten my daughter's juice boxes or my son's English Muffins, she looked up at me and asked, "Are those Lucky Charms for your kids?" It's a simple enough question but one that stopped me in fear and created a pit in my stomach. I am not allowed to have contact with minors...

Read the full Op-Ed here: OneStandardOfJustice.org/Op-Ed-A-Mother-on-the-Registry

OSJ's Pardon Program

OSJ's Absolute Pardon and Wellness Program will be entering its third year in 2026. We are looking for 10-20 people to be part of a 2026 cohort applying for pardons. We have financial assistance for those in need in the Hartford area. While we are not attorneys, our pardon coach will help you craft and submit your application to improve your chances of success. This process can be taxing, onerous, and reopen past wounds. On the other hand, an absolute pardon can lead to your freedom and removal from the Registry. We will

talk at length about the Pardon Program at the meetups. While we cannot guarantee success the first time out, we will do our best to get you across the finish line even if it means reapplying the following year. There is a fee to participate in this program if you don't qualify for financial aid. The fee is a small fraction of what an attorney would charge. We know our stuff.

To be considered for a slot in the 2026 cohort, fill out our interest form:

OneStandardOfJustice.org/Pardon

Donate to OSJ

You can donate to our organization by sending a check to PO Box 461, New Canaan, CT 06840 or by visiting our website:

OneStandardOfJustice.org/Donate