



# In-Service Resources



May 2022

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

## Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System Is on the Line. Let's Be Clear about What Might Happen.

CLICK HERE

Op-Ed for the Tow Youth Justice Institute by Jason Szanyi, the Deputy Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy in Washington, DC., 3/14/22



"Those of us who track juvenile justice improvement efforts around the country have been puzzled and disturbed by narratives suggesting that Connecticut's juvenile justice system is fundamentally broken. In part, this is because Connecticut's work on youth justice reform during the last decade has made it a model for other states looking to align policies and practices with research, evidence-based approaches, and public safety.



The other cause for our confusion is that many proposed changes to Connecticut's juvenile justice system would almost certainly lead to worse public safety outcomes..."

# CT Mirror Article 3/14/22: Hearing on criminal justice bills crystallizes a divide between the parties

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About three hours into a public hearing hosted by the Judiciary Committee on Monday, Ranking Member Rep. Craig Fishbein asked an attorney a hypothetical question: What is the benefit of keeping a 13-year-old, charged with murder, in the juvenile justice system, as opposed to transferring their case to adult court?

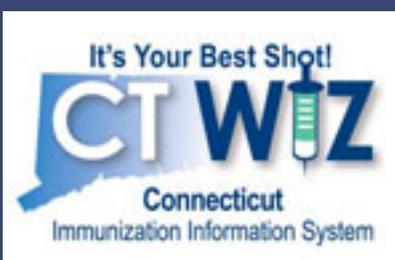
Fishbein's question asked several points that the bill tries to answer: How should the state, and the courts, respond when a young child is charged with a serious crime? And, do certain criminal charges warrant putting a young teenager in adult prison, even if they're being held pretrial, without having been convicted of a crime?

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## Connecticut Department of Public Health Resource for Immunization Records

CLICK HERE

- CT WiZ portal:  
[https://ctwiz.dph.ct.gov/ctwiz\\_public/Application/PublicPortal/Index](https://ctwiz.dph.ct.gov/ctwiz_public/Application/PublicPortal/Index)
- Get immunization records through the secure CT WiZ Public Portal, a free service provided by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program.
- More information and FAQs at:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/CT-WiZ-Access-My-Immunization-Record>
- Patients and legal guardians can access and print official immunization records for themselves and their minor children using the CT WiZ Public Portal.
- The patient's First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, and Gender are required before proceeding.



## CT Mirror Article 3/24/22: Court ends federal oversight of child protection in CT

[CLICK HERE](#)



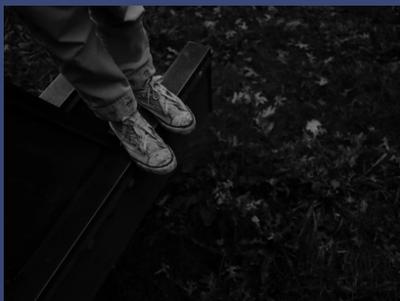
A federal judge formally released the Department of Children and Families from three decades of court oversight Thursday, concluding that Connecticut once again can be entrusted with the care of its most vulnerable children.

In the view of plaintiff's counsel, DCF has been transformed from a model of dysfunction to an exemplar of a child-protection agency focused on keeping children with relatives and out of institutions to the greatest degree possible.

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## NY Times 4/23/22: 'It's Life or Death': The Mental Health Crisis Among U.S. Teens

[CLICK HERE](#)



American adolescence is undergoing a drastic change. Three decades ago, the gravest public health threats to teenagers in the United States came from binge drinking, drunken driving, teenage pregnancy and smoking. These have since fallen sharply, replaced by a new public health concern: soaring rates of mental health disorders.

In 2019, 13 percent of adolescents reported having a major depressive episode, a 60 percent increase from 2007. Emergency room visits by children and adolescents in that period also rose sharply for anxiety, mood disorders and self-harm. And for people ages 10 to 24, suicide rates, stable from 2000 to 2007, leaped nearly 60 percent by 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## The U.S. Centers for Disease Control published the results from their nationwide survey of the impact of COVID-19 on the health and mental health of children

[CLICK HERE](#)



"Overall, More than one in three high school students (37.1%) experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, 44.2% of students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, almost 20% seriously considered suicide, and 9.0% attempted suicide during the 12 months before the survey.

In addition to providing youths with access to needed mental health care, comprehensive approaches that promote help-seeking behaviors, connections to trusted adults and supportive peers, and engagement in community activities have been shown to have many benefits including improved feelings of connectedness, better mental health, reduced risk for suicide, reduced prevalence of health risk behaviors, and better academic achievement."

Full report can be found [here](#)

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## The Far Reaching Impact of Sexual Abuse

Tow Youth Justice Institute Issue Brief II, Winter 2022

[CLICK HERE](#)



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sexual violence is an important public health problem that affects the lives of millions of people in the United States. "These forms of violence can lead to serious short- and long-term consequences including physical injury, poor mental health, and chronic physical health problems. Furthermore, previous research indicates that victimization as a child or adolescent increases the likelihood that victimization will recur in adulthood." Tragically, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience child sexual abuse at some point in childhood.

# Increased Reports of Human Trafficking from Child Welfare Systems Indicate Progress and Point to Prevention

[CLICK HERE](#)

Administration for Children & Families 4/15/22: Preventing child abuse before it occurs requires proactively addressing potential vulnerabilities using a whole-family approach. It is important to meet families where they are at. Providing direct support to parents bolsters prevention for children by reducing the likelihood of abuse, entry into the child welfare system, and the risk of human trafficking.



Child welfare professionals and others can partner with parents to build strengths and resilience, develop coping strategies, and establish social connections. They can also identify areas where families need assistance, including expanding access to necessities like housing and employment opportunities. Promoting these protective factors targets the root causes of maltreatment. The [2021/2022 Prevention Resource Guide](#) (PDF) from the HHS Children's Bureau outlines other prevention strategies that encourage sustainable wellbeing.

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## Governor Lamont Announces Federal Approval of Connecticut's Family First Prevention Plan

[CLICK HERE](#)

Governor Ned Lamont today (3/8/22) announced that his administration has received notification from the U.S. Children's Bureau that the Family First Prevention Plan submitted by the State of Connecticut has been approved.



The plan was written in response to the Family First Prevention Services Act signed into law as part of the U.S. Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. This legislation represents a major shift in federal policy leading to families having greater access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home skill-based parenting supports intended to stabilize families and keep them safely together. It also sets forth enhancements for kinship providers and expectations when children require a treatment intervention in a congregate care facility.

# Materials from Financial Literacy In-Service with Dan Hoffman of Operation Hope

CAC In-service 4/29/22

[CLICK HERE](#)

Operation Hope's mission: "Our focus is financial dignity and inclusion. We equip young people and adults with the financial tools and education to secure a better future—coaching them through their personal aspirations and life's challenges, and facilitating their journey to financial independence."



Materials from inservice:

- Basics of Budgeting powerpoint
- Get Smart about Banking powerpoint
- Kids Workbook
- Young Adults Workbook

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## Side-by-Side Comparison of the Current Connecticut Individualized Education Program (IEP) and the New IEP

[CLICK HERE](#)

Connecticut State Department of Education  
April 2022

In preparation for the transition to the new Individualized Education Program (IEP) document and the CT-SEDS platform, this resource was developed to provide a high-level overview of the differences between Connecticut's current and new IEP document.

For New IEPs Created After July 1, 2022



## NY Times 5/8/22: Hundreds of Suicidal Teens Sleep in Emergency Rooms. Every Night.

[CLICK HERE](#)

With inpatient psychiatric services in short supply, adolescents are spending days, even weeks, in hospital emergency departments awaiting the help they desperately need.



Nationally, the number of residential treatment facilities for people under the age of 18 fell to 592 in 2020 from 848 in 2012, a 30 percent decline, according to the most recent federal government survey. The decline is partly a result of well-intentioned policy changes that did not foresee a surge in mental-health cases. Social-distancing rules and labor shortages during the pandemic have eliminated additional treatment centers and beds, experts say.

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## Healthline article 5/5/22: 94% of Transgender Youth Maintain Gender Identity 5 Years After Social Transition

[CLICK HERE](#)

During a time when transgender rights and gender-affirming healthcare seem under attack, a new study offers new insights into trans youth and their relationships to their gender identity.



A new study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found that the majority of transgender youth maintain their gender identity five years after their social transition during childhood.

Experts say research like this is important in painting a nuanced picture of the complex realities of young people's gender identities.

# 4 Upcoming Internet Safety Trainings for Kids and Adults

[CLICK HERE](#)



Trainings offered by Connecticut Children's Alliance

May 23rd @ 6pm: Student Online Safety Ages 9-11

May 26th @ 6pm: Student Online Safety Ages 12+

June 6th @ 6pm: Parent Online Safety

June 7th @ 6pm: Parent Online Safety In Spanish (Seguridad Para Los Padres en el Internet)

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## Webinar 5/17/22: Special Education Law and Advocacy Community Round Table

Follow up info and speaker's contact info can be found [here](#).

A Parent Forum to discuss the topics below and more:

- Understanding your child's basic special education rights

- Addressing parents' observations, input and concerns as the year comes to a close

- Connecticut's New Individualized Education Plan (IEP) going into effect July 1st

- ESY - Extended School Year Services / Summer Camp & Related Services

- Preparing for the End of the Year Annual PPT Review

- Planning Ahead to the new school year - Fall 2022

- Turning Point: Next Steps... What to do if your child is struggling and the school is not responding to your child's needs

[CLICK HERE](#)

