

# Connecticut



*The letter grades reflect Polaris' evaluation of existing laws designed to provide survivors of human trafficking with a realistic pathway to clear their criminal records. For more information on the criteria graded, please read [here](#) and examples of model legislation for each criteria can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or issues, please contact [policy@polarisproject.org](mailto:policy@polarisproject.org).*

## GOOD FOR SURVIVORS:

### Trafficking Nexus:

The nexus or connection to trafficking the survivor must prove in Connecticut is currently "as a result" of trafficking. This is less restrictive than other states and allows more survivors to access relief.

### Hearing Requirement:

Attending a hearing can be traumatizing for survivors as well as expensive. Connecticut has a conditional hearing requirement. This means the hearing is required at the court's discretion or under objection from certain state authorities such as prosecutors. Ideally, survivors could apply for relief, and based on the evidence provided, the court could decide to grant relief without having a hearing.

### Offenses Covered:

Connecticut covers a wide range of offenses, including more "serious crimes," i.e. violent crimes, sex crimes, and serious felonies. This is critical as many survivors are arrested and convicted for various offenses resulting from their trafficking experience. Ideally, all offenses would be eligible for relief.

## NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

### Survivor Must Notify Victim When Applying for Relief:

The statute requires a survivor to notify any victims of the original offense before applying for relief. In some cases, the victims of the original offense can submit impact statements that may impact the ability of the survivor to receive criminal record relief. This is problematic because the victim may not be aware of the survivor's victimization, or they may have been connected to the victimization as a trafficker or buyer. In these scenarios, notifying the victim may put the trafficking survivor at risk. Further, notifying a victim and allowing them to submit a statement puts the blame on the survivor for an offense they committed under coercion, force, or threat.

### Records Protection:

The statute in Connecticut is silent on the confidentiality or permitted disclosure of records upon granting criminal record relief to the trafficking survivor. This means that a survivor's record may still be accessible to the public even after they receive record relief. Ideally, the records of the offense should be destroyed, purged, or otherwise permanently irretrievable once the survivor is granted criminal record relief.

### Burden of Proof:

Connecticut is silent on the issue of burden of proof. Connecticut should include a burden of proof in the statute, specifically "preponderance of the evidence," which is the most clear and most helpful to trafficking survivors.



Statute: [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-95c](#)