



United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
civilrights.justice.gov

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division.

Report successfully submitted



Your record number is: **271532-CND**

What to expect

① We review your report

Our specialists in the Civil Rights Division carefully read every report to identify civil rights violations, spot trends, and determine if we have authority to help with your report.

② Our specialists determine the next step

We may decide to:

Open an investigation or take some other action within the legal authority of the Justice Department.

Collect more information before we can look into your report.

Recommend another government agency that can properly look into your report. If so, we'll let you know.

In some cases, we may determine that we don't have legal authority to handle your report and will recommend that you seek help from a private lawyer or local legal aid organization.

③ When possible, we will follow up with you

We do our best to let you know about the outcome of our review. However, we may not always be able to provide you with updates because:

We're actively working on an investigation or case related to your report.

We're receiving and actively reviewing many requests at the same time.

If we are able to respond, we will contact you using the contact information you provided in this report. Depending on the type of report, response times can vary. If you need to reach us about your report, please refer to your report number when contacting us. This is how we keep track of your submission.

What you can do next

① Contact local legal aid organizations or a lawyer if you haven't already

Legal aid offices or members of lawyer associations in your state may be able to help you with your issue.

American Bar Association, visit www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home or call [\(800\) 285-2221](tel:8002852221)

Legal Services Corporation (or Legal Aid Offices), to help you find a legal aid lawyer in your area visit www.lsc.gov/find-legal-aid or call [\(202\) 295-1500](tel:2022951500)

② Get help immediately if you are in danger

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call [911](tel:911) and contact the police.

Your submission

Contact

Contact information

Your name

Molly Cole

Email address

molly@ctsilc.org

Phone number

8608490686

Address

151 New Park Avenue, c/o NCAAA #75, Hartford, CT 06106

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HARTFORD, Connecticut 06106

Are you now or have ever been an active duty service member?

No

Primary concern

What is your primary reason for contacting the Civil Rights Division?

Discriminated against in a commercial location or public place

Location

Please choose the type of location that best describes where the incident happened

Public space

Where did this happen?**Organization name**

Legislative Office Building

Address

300 Capitol Avenue

-

HARTFORD, Connecticut

Personal characteristics**Do you believe any of these personal characteristics influenced why you were treated this way?**

Disability (including temporary or recovered and including HIV and drug addiction)

Date**When did this happen?**

3/21/2023

Personal description**In your own words, describe what happened**

On Thursday March 16 Kathy Flaherty, attorney with the CT Legal Rights Project, requested an accommodation from the Judiciary Committee of the Ct General Assembly on behalf of CLRP's clients currently residing at Whiting Forensic Hospital. They wanted to testify regarding SB 926, An Act Concerning Persons Committed to the Jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Security Review Board. The requested accommodation related to the requirement that each person registering to testify remotely needed a separate email address. These individuals had limited access to a computer and no email address. They use a common device run by a staff person who logs in to the zoom meetings. The Clerk of the Committee set up a plan for the individuals residing in two separate buildings at Whiting which would allow them to use a staff email and a single computer at each site. However, the second part of this accommodation was that they be allowed to speak within the first hour or two of the hearing, since they could not sit at these computers all day waiting to testify. Public hearing are inown to go late. Kathy stated " Last year during the Public Health hearing, the CEO pf the hospital was still on the Zoom at 11 pm to make it avaiable for people who were very late in the random order, but if there is any way to group folks together earlier in the hearing as a reasonable accomodation of their disabilities that would be great". Kathy asked if this could be within the first two hours of the hearing. The committee clerk agreed to ask the committee chairs. Her response on 3/21 was " Unfortunately the chairs said that where people end up on the list after I randomly shuffle it is where they end up. " They were eventually given some staggered slots earlier in the day, but not the accommodation they requested. This is yet another example of the variance and confusion regarding the provision of accommodations for people with disabilities during the public hearing process. I coordinate the Ct Cross Disability Alliance and we have significant concerns regarding the public hearing accommodations for people with disabilities. I have now filed four complaints regarding accommodations during the public hearing process.