



**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: **271504-JFG**

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## 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.

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## 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](http://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](http://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.

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## Your submission

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### Contact

#### Contact information

##### Your name

Molly Cole

##### Email address

molly@ctsilc.org

##### Phone number

8608490686

##### Address

190 White Rock Drive

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WINDSOR, Connecticut 06095

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

No

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### Primary concern

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

Discriminated against in a commercial location or public place

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### Location

<https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/>

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

Public space

**Where did this happen?****Organization name**

State of CT Legislative Office Building

**Address**

300 Capitol Avenue

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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/ - /2023

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

A group of Individuals who have disabilities and are wheelchair users wanted to testify at a public hearing at the Legislative Office Building. The secretary of their organization requested contacted the clerk of the committee, as instructed in the Legislative Bulletin to request an accommodation. She asked that all five testifiers be assigned slots within a 2-hour time period from noon-2:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing. This was critical to their ability to plan aides and organize transportation in order to participate. The Clerk of the Committee said that this would be possible to do but that she was concerned about five wheelchairs being in the hearing room at the same time. She didn't want to block out other testifiers who had no mobility issues. She therefore suggested that they should use a separate conference room where they could watch the hearing on video until it was their turn to testify. They would then have to return to the separate conference room after their testimony if they wanted to watch more of the hearing.

The process for accessing needed accommodations for this pubic process is a random, inconsistent, and unpredictable approach. The Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance, which I coordinate, has complained about this in two letters to the Office of Legislative Management. We offered solutions and training opportunities, which they have not accepted. There is still no uniform guidance for clerks in the building to provide needed accommodations in a timely and consistent manner. And the procedure for requesting accommodations needs to be very clearly posted on the CT General Assembly website, so that all Connecticut's citizens can participate in this process.

We have several other complaints regarding accommodations which will be filed separately. The CT Cross Disability Alliance would like to address these issues before the next legislative session starts in 2024. We have tried to address this during the current session but have had no success.