

Collateral Consequences of Conviction

Participation in Civil Service¹

A person convicted of a felony loses the right to become an elector and cannot vote, hold public office, or run for office, although he can have these rights restored. Additionally, a person with a felony conviction is disqualified from jury service for seven years, or while he is a defendant in a pending felony case.

Housing²

Landlords can evict a tenant who was convicted of a violation of federal, state, or local law that is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of other residents. Federal and state law for public housing allows eviction based on conviction of certain felonies. Different rules apply to elderly people.

Education

Under CT law, for youth enrolled in school and between the ages of 7 and 21, the police must notify the superintendent for that student's school of all arrests for certain Class A misdemeanors or felonies³. The student may face suspension or expulsion for: certain weapons and drug crimes; certain disruptive or dangerous behaviors that occur on school grounds, at school sponsored activities; and even behavior off school grounds that is determined to violate a school board policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process⁴.

Student Loans⁵

Federal higher education loans are not available for certain periods of time to students who have been convicted under federal or state law of a crime involving possession or sale of a controlled substance. There are provisions for regaining eligibility in some circumstances.

Public Benefits

Public Benefits for food, shelter, medical care, and income assistance are not a constitutional right⁶. An individual can be denied eligibility, or benefits can be revoked, under certain circumstances including: outstanding warrants for arrest, arrest, incarceration, conviction of a crime, and probation or parole violations⁷. Furthermore, state law bars anyone convicted of a drug possession or a drug use felony under federal or state law from receiving benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or food stamp programs, unless the person (1) has completed their court imposed sentence, (2) is satisfactorily serving probation, or (3) completed or will complete a court imposed mandatory substance abuse treatment or testing program⁸.

Immigrations Status⁹

If you are not a U.S. citizen, any criminal conviction, including some misdemeanors and suspended sentences, and some pre-trial diversion programs can potentially lead to deportation, even if you have been in this country for many years and are a lawful permanent resident (green-card holder), and if you are not yet naturalized.

Parental Rights

If you are pleading to a charge for which you will receive more than 22 months of incarceration, the state may file for the termination of your parental rights if your child or children will be in foster care for 15 consecutive months of that time period. This is according to the Safe Families and Adoption Act of 1997.

¹ March 28, 2003, Office of Legislative Research, Christopher Reinhart, *Consequences of a Felony Conviction*. Retrieved March 20, 2013 from <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2003/olrdata/jud/rpt/2003-r-0333.htm>

² Ibid

³ Office of the Chief Public Defender

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Office of the Chief Public Defender

Employment/Professional Licenses/Permits¹⁰

There are numerous types of employment, professional licenses and work permits from which a person convicted of any felony may be denied or suspended. Below is only a partial list.

- Physical therapist, nurse, nurse's aide, paramedic
- Public service gas technician
- Shorthand reporter
- Pawnbroker
- Secondhand dealer
- Pesticide application registrant
- Professional bondsmen
- Barber, hairdresser, cosmetician
- Contractors performing: heating, piping and cooling; solar; fire protection sprinkler; irrigation; sheet metal; or automotive work
- Sellers of alcohol
- Social worker
- Sanitarian
- Lead abatement consultant or worker
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Elevator contractor

The following *businesses* can lose their license to operate if an individual connected with the business is convicted of *any* felony:

- Sales finance companies
- Small loan lenders
- Check cashing businesses
- Consumer collection agencies
- Money transmission businesses or payment instrument issuers
- Debt adjusters
- Debt negotiators

¹⁰ Office of Legislative Research, Christopher Reinhart, *Felony Convictions and Employment*, July 16, 2012. Retrieved March 20, 2013 from <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/rpt/2012-R-0252.htm>