

CONNECTICUT

Collateral Punishments for Marijuana Offenses

COLLATERAL PUNISHMENTS THAT HINDER FAMILY LIFE

Eligibility to Adopt a Child, or to Become a Foster Parent

Any conviction (felony or misdemeanor) for marijuana possession, use, or sales, by a prospective adoption or foster parent, or any member of the household, results in a five-year ban on eligibility. Conn. Agencies Regs. § 17a-150-110, subd. (4) (2006).

Eligibility for Public Housing

According to the Legal Action Center, the public housing authority considers drug arrests in its admissions criteria, and any conviction for selling drugs on public housing property results in a three-year ban from public housing. The bar will be lifted if a drug rehabilitation program has been completed. LEGAL ACTION CENTER, AFTER PRISON: ROADBLOCKS TO REENTRY at <http://www.lac.org/lac/index.php>.

Eligibility for Food Stamps and other Public Assistance

A felony conviction for possession, use or distribution of marijuana bars a person from receiving food stamps and temporary assistance but only until he or she completes the sentence imposed by the court. Benefits can be received while on probation. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-112d.

COLLATERAL PUNISHMENTS THAT HINDER PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Employment and Professional Licensing

All marijuana convictions are permanently recorded on a person's criminal record, and available for review by public and private employers. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-142. Public employers and licensing agencies are prohibited from denying employment or a license to a person based solely on a prior marijuana conviction, unless the denial is made in writing and states the evidence and reasons for the denial. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46A-80.

Eligibility for Educational Loans

Most state aid is administered by individual colleges that are not required to follow the federal aid ban, however, the need-based Capitol Scholars program requires that the student have no prior drug convictions. CHRIS MULLIGAN ET AL., FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS: LOSS OF STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHER EDUCATION ACT DRUG PROVISION (Coalition for Higher Educ. Reform 2006), at <http://www.raiseyourvoice.com/statereport/fallingthrough.pdf> (last modified February 7, 2006).

Driver's License

According to the Legal Action Center, Connecticut opted out of the federal driver's license suspension. (LEGAL ACTION CENTER, AFTER PRISON: ROADBLOCKS TO REENTRY at <http://www.lac.org/lac/index.php>). We did not locate an alternative state law provision.

COLLATERAL PUNISHMENTS THAT HINDER CIVIC PARTICIPATION**Right to Vote**

Conviction of a marijuana felony results in loss of voting rights indefinitely, but the right to vote can be restored by submission of written proof that all fines have been paid and that the convicted person has been discharged from confinement, parole, or probation. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-46a (2006).

Right to Sit on a Jury

The right to sit on a jury is lost for seven years upon a felony marijuana conviction. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 51-217(a)(2) (2006).

Right to Possess a Firearm

A felony marijuana conviction results in a lifetime bar on possession of a firearm. Conn. Gen. State. § 53-217 (2006).