

## Filing Civil Rights Complaints

Distributed at “Stand Up to Bullying!” a forum held by the Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate, the [Connecticut Commission on Children](#), and other partners on October 22, 2007.

For issues in schools, there are two key civil rights agencies – one on the federal level (OCR), and one on the state level (CHRO).

### State Level

#### **The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO)**

21 Grand Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Telephone: 860-541-3400 or 800-477-5737  
Web site: <http://www.state.ct.us/chro/>

“Complaints must generally be filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged act of discrimination or within 180 days of the date that you became aware of the act. Complaints must be in writing and under oath. Your reasonably written complaint must be filed in a Commission office and entered into the Commission records before the 180-day time frame expires.

A person wishing to file a complaint should contact an intake officer at one of the Commission’s regional offices. The intake worker will discuss your concerns, explain our complaint process and advise you about what help CHRO may be able to provide to you. If a complaint can be taken, you will be given an appointment to come to a regional office to file a complaint.”

### Federal Level

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office (Serves Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)  
33 Arch Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02110-1491  
Telephone: (617) 289-0111  
Fax: (617) 289-0150  
TDD: (877) 521-2172  
E-mail: [OCR.Boston@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Boston@ed.gov)

#### **Filing complaints electronically:**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

“OCR enforces several Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, sex, disability, and on the basis of age. These laws extend to all state education agencies, elementary and secondary school systems, colleges and universities, vocational schools, proprietary schools, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, libraries, and museums that receive U.S. Department of Education funds. OCR also has responsibilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (prohibiting disability discrimination by public entities, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance).”

**For Technical Assistance you may also contact:**

**The Office of the Child Advocate**

18-20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Telephone: (860) 566-2106 (V/TTY)  
Toll Free Number: 1-800-994-0939  
Fax Number: (860) 566-2251

**Connecticut State Department of Education**

William A. Howe, Ed.D.  
State Title IX Coordinator  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
Telephone: (860) 807-2031  
Fax: (860) 807-2195  
Email: [william.howe@ct.gov](mailto:william.howe@ct.gov)

**Connecticut Women's Education & Legal Fund (CWEALF)**

135 Broad St  
Hartford, CT 06105-3701  
Telephone: 860-247-6090  
Fax: 860-524-0804  
Information & referral: 860-524-0601 or 800-479-2949  
E-mail: [cwealf@snet.net](mailto:cwealf@snet.net)  
Website: <http://www.cwealf.org>

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

18-20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, Ct 06106  
Telephone: (860) 240-8300  
Fax: 860-240-8314  
E-mail: [PCSW@po.state.ct.us](mailto:PCSW@po.state.ct.us)