

## Body Armor and Connecticut Law

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October 31, 2019 | 2019-R-0250

### Issue

Summarize Connecticut's laws on body armor. This report updates OLR Report [2009-R-0401](#).

### Summary

By law, it is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both, for anyone convicted of specific felonies or a serious juvenile offense to possess body armor.

It is generally a class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both, to sell body armor without personally meeting the purchaser. The law allows such sales for certain law enforcement personnel and armed forces members.

The law defines "body armor" as any material designed to be worn on the body and to provide bullet penetration resistance.

### Criminal Possession of Body Armor

It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone convicted of the following offenses to possess body armor:

1. a capital felony (death penalty case in effect before April 25, 2012);
2. a class A felony other than employing a minor in an obscene performance;
3. a class B felony other than 1<sup>st</sup> degree promoting prostitution, 1<sup>st</sup> degree larceny, or promoting a minor in an obscene performance;

4. a class C felony other than 2<sup>nd</sup> degree promoting prostitution, bribery of a juror, or bribe receiving by a juror;
5. class D felonies of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault with or without a firearm, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault, with or without a firearm, of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree sexual assault with or without a firearm, 1<sup>st</sup> degree unlawful restraint, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary with or without a firearm, reckless burning, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree robbery, or criminal use of a firearm or electronic defense weapon (e.g., taser); or
6. a serious juvenile offense ([CGS § 53a-217d](#)).

More than 50 crimes are listed as serious juvenile offenses. They include most class A felonies, many class B and C felonies, and, some D felonies. Examples of the crimes include murder, manslaughter, and certain assaults; 1<sup>st</sup> degree sexual or aggravated sexual assault; kidnapping; home invasion; arson; certain drug or gun offenses; bomb manufacturing; and several loan-shark-type offenses. Juveniles convicted of serious juvenile offenses face more severe consequences than other juveniles.

## **Illegal Sale of Body Armor**

It is a class B misdemeanor to sell or deliver body armor without the transfer occurring in person. The law exempts sales or deliveries to:

1. authorized officials or sworn members of local police departments, the State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or the Department of Motor Vehicles;
2. authorized municipal or Department of Administrative Services' officials who buy body armor for the above agencies;
3. authorized Judicial Branch officials who buy body armor for probation officers or judicial marshals; and
4. National Guard or armed forces reserve members ([CGS § 53-341b](#)).

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