

## For Immediate Release



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### Safe Connect COVID-19

East Hartford, CT— COVID-19 is creating challenges all around us. For victims and survivors of domestic violence, we know that abusers may take advantage of this period of social distancing to further isolate and abuse you. We want you to know that you are not alone.

Governor Lamont signed an executive order making it possible to file for a family violence restraining order completely online. This will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring that victims have access to this critical safety measure. Domestic violence advocates are ready to assist you with the process.

In Connecticut, safe, free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence are available through Safe Connect, which is up and running throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Advocates can:

- Guide you through the restraining order process remotely
- Scribe the application on your behalf
- Electronically submit the application to the court
- Coordinate service of process with a state marshal

Safe Connect, a project of the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is CT's domestic violence resource hub. In addition to assisting with the electronic filing of a restraining order, they can provide you with information, safety planning, counseling, and referrals to a local CCADV domestic violence member organization for ongoing support and services locally. Whether you're a victim, survivor, professional or someone who suspects that a loved one is experiencing abuse at home, Safe Connect is ready to help.

With an emphasis on safety, compassion and support, Safe Connect advocates will listen without judgment and provide those seeking assistance with options, resources and information. All services are confidential, free and voluntary. Whether you need immediate help or just someone to listen, Safe Connect advocates will take your lead and provide you with the support you need to stay safe.

Safe Connect advocates are available 24/7 throughout COVID-19. They can be reached via call, chat or email. Bilingual services are available. Please visit [\*\*www.CTSafeConnect.org\*\*](http://www.CTSafeConnect.org), call **(888) 774-2900** or email [\*\*SafeConnect@ctcadv.org\*\*](mailto:SafeConnect@ctcadv.org) to connect with an advocate today!