

Sample Warning Statement for Correspondence Containing Unsolicited Absentee Ballot Applications

Including this statement with correspondence you send with unsolicited absentee ballot applications constitutes compliance with Conn. Gen. Stats. Sec. 9-140(l):

“Enclosed please find an absentee ballot application, which you may use only if you will be unable to appear at your polling place on the day of the primary, election or referendum for one of the following reasons:

- 1) your active service in the U. S. armed forces
- 2) your absence from town
- 3) sickness
- 4) physical disability
- 5) your religion forbids secular (non-religious) activity on that day
- 6) your required performance of duties as a primary, referendum, or election official at a polling place other than your own during all the hours on that day.

WARNING: Voting by absentee ballot if you are not eligible to do so for one of the six reasons listed above can subject you to civil and criminal penalties.”

Penalties

Civil penalties

The State Elections Enforcement Commission may levy a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,000 per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation of any provision of state law regarding absentee voting (Chapter 145 of the Connecticut General Statutes).

Criminal penalties:

A person who willfully violates any provision of Chapter 145 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be guilty of a class D felony. Conviction of a class D felony shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than one year nor more than five years, or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

It is a class D felony:

- ▶ for any person not authorized by law to possess the official absentee ballot of an applicant to whom it was issued;
- ▶ for any candidate or agent of a candidate, political party or committee to knowingly be present when absentee ballot applicant executes an absentee ballot;
- ▶ to commit a false statement in absentee balloting;
- ▶ to knowingly misrepresent the eligibility requirements to vote by absentee ballot.

Sources: Connecticut Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 7 and Connecticut General Statutes, Chapters 145 & 151: Sections 9-135, 9-140, 9-140a, 9-140b, 9-359, 9-359a

For questions about this form, contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission at (860) 566-1776 or 1-866-SEEC INFO, Email: SEEC@po.state.ct.us or Secretary of the State at (860) 509-6100 or 1-800-540-3764, Email: LEAD@po.state.ct.us