

Sample Warning Statement

Include with 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 (I):

"Enclosed please find an absentee ballot application. This application is provided to you and paid for by [NAME OF COMMITTEE OR AGENT]." In the case of a candidate committee, also add "Approved by [NAME OF CANDIDATE]."

Your absentee ballot may be returned to the town clerk's office by:

1. **U.S. Mail.** Please use the enclosed envelope to return the ballot.
2. **Drop Box.** There are ballot drop boxes available. Contact the town clerk to determine the location of your town's drop box. Again, please use the enclosed envelope.
3. **Designee.** A designee, if willing, may be used to return a completed absentee ballot. This may be a person caring for the applicant due to applicant's illness or disability; or applicant's family member, designated by the applicant, and who agrees to act as designee; or if no such person consents or is available, a police officer, registrar of voters, or assistant or deputy registrar of voters in applicant's town/city of residence.

Warning: Voting by absentee ballot if you are not a registered voter 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.

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 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

Sources: Connecticut Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 7, and Connecticut General Statutes, Chapters 145, 151, and 952: Sections 9-135, 9-140, 9-140a, 9-140b, 9-359, 9-359a, 53a-35a, 53a-41 (as amended by P.A. 26-42)