



WWB June Newsletter

From College Planning to Open Permits Connecticut Legal Insights for Families and Property Owners

A Note from Our CEO

This month's newsletter reflects something we think about every day: the legal issues that matter most aren't always the ones people expect. A child turning 18. A permit left open on a home you're about to buy. A commercial property with title issues that don't surface until closing. A divorce agreement that turns out to have unanswered questions years later. Our job is to know where those issues are hiding, before they become problems for our clients.

- Joshua Soloway, CEO

Client Update



Connecticut Automated Speed Enforcement Citations: What Drivers Should Know

Connecticut law now permits cities and towns to use Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices, or ATESDs, for certain speed and red-light violations.

How it works:

- Cameras capture a photo of your vehicle's license plate.
- A police officer reviews the evidence.
- If the violation is valid, the citation is mailed to your address.

Fines:

- First offense: **\$50**
- Second and subsequent offenses: **\$75**

Current activity:

- As of January 2026, at least 11 municipalities are either already using cameras or approving the use of cameras.
- Some towns are now issuing red-light citations using these cameras.
- Connecticut has also deployed speed cameras in highway work zones as part of the State Department of Transportation's "Know the Zone" program.

Bottom line: If you received a paper citation in the mail from a participating municipality or the State of Connecticut, the citation is likely legitimate. If you are unsure how to proceed, consult an experienced attorney for guidance. Always check the state website to ensure the payment link and citation are legitimate, though!

Received a citation and not sure whether it is legitimate?

Contact our team before you pay or respond →

Legal Insights from the WWB Team

This month's legal insights cover the high school-to-college transition, DCF investigations, the practical steps needed to fund a trust, and finally, one of the most common surprises in Connecticut real estate: open permits.



Preparing Graduates for College: Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, and FERPA

- Heidi McGee, Esq.

- ◆ **Once a student turns 18, parents no longer have automatic legal authority.** Under Connecticut law, guardianship of a minor ends at age 18, so third parties may require the student's consent or formal authorization before sharing information or making decisions.

- ◆ **A durable power of attorney can help preserve continuity.** If the student becomes unavailable or incapacitated, a properly drafted Connecticut power of attorney may allow a trusted agent, often a parent, to assist with financial and administrative matters.

- ◆ **A health care proxy can allow someone to step in for medical decisions.** Connecticut's appointment of a health care representative gives the student a way to name who should act if they are unable to make or communicate medical decisions.

- ◆ **Privacy rules can limit parental access to records.** Connecticut medical confidentiality laws and Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) may prevent parents from accessing health or education records unless the student has provided the proper consent or authorization.

[Read the full insight →](#)



Department of Children and Families (DCF): Investigations, Substantiations, and Appeals

- Christopher DeMatteo, Esq.

- ◆ **DCF has the authority to investigate allegations of child abuse or neglect.** Anyone responsible for a child's care, including parents, relatives, teachers, health care professionals, babysitters, coaches, and clergy, may be subject to investigation.

- ◆ **Your cooperation with DCF is generally voluntary unless there is a court order.** You have the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, and the right to refuse to provide information, sign releases, meet with DCF, or allow DCF social workers into your home.

- ◆ **DCF can remove a child in limited circumstances.** The agency may administratively remove a child for up to 96 hours if it reasonably believes the child is in immediate physical danger, but longer removals require an order of temporary custody from juvenile court.

- ◆ **Substantiations and Registry placements are separate from criminal proceedings.** DCF can substantiate a report and place a person on the Central Registry even if no court case is filed, and those decisions can have serious consequences for employment and future DCF matters.

[Read the full insight →](#)



Funding a Trust

How to Transfer Assets Into Your Revocable Living Trust

- Robert B. Bellitto, Esq.

- ♦ **Signing the trust is only the first step.** Assets are not automatically transferred into a trust when the trust document is signed. To be effective, each asset must be retitled, assigned, or otherwise transferred into the trust.
- ♦ **Bank and investment accounts usually need formal changes.** Checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, and brokerage accounts should be re-registered in the name of the trustee, using the trust's full legal name and date.
- ♦ **Real estate and business interests require extra attention.** Property held in the trust should be conveyed by deed to the trustee, and partnership or LLC interests must be assigned in a way that also complies with any transfer rules in the governing documents.
- ♦ **Insurance, retirement assets, and institution-specific forms matter too.** Beneficiary designations may need to be updated, financial institutions often require their own paperwork, and you should confirm with your attorney, accountant, and financial advisor which assets should be transferred and which should remain outside the trust.

[Read the full insight →](#)



Municipal Searches and Open Permits

- Bradd Robbins, Esq.

- ♦ **A title search is only part of the picture in a Connecticut real estate purchase.** In addition to confirming ownership and identifying mortgages, liens, easements, and other title issues, buyers should also understand what a municipal search can reveal.
- ♦ **A municipal search shows whether permits were obtained and inspected.** It can identify construction or renovation permits, whether the work was approved by the town, and other property-related issues such as heating oil tank removal.
- ♦ **Open permits can delay closing, but they protect the buyer.** If a permit was issued but never closed, the seller may need to complete the inspection process before closing. Connecticut law also deems certain open permits closed after nine years for qualifying one- and two-family properties, but that does not mean the work was done correctly.
- ♦ **Work done without a permit is a separate issue.** Unpermitted work does not fall under the nine-year rule, and a careful buyer should require the seller to address the problem by obtaining the permit, completing the inspection, and closing it properly.

[Read the full insight →](#)

WWB Wins

- Attorney **David Onusko** helped a client recover \$75,000 from an account that had been reported as fraudulent. Through his efforts, the client was able to recover and release the funds, resulting in an excellent outcome and strong advocacy.
- Partner **Mark Midden** and associate **Carolyn Lenoci** scored a significant win for our client when the Court denied the defendant's motion to dismiss, prevailing on a novel jurisdictional issue involving modification of child support after a purported waiver in a divorce agreement.

What Our Clients Say About Us

[READ OUR 5-STAR REVIEWS](#)

"Thank you, **James Lenex** for your professionalism and dedication.

We really appreciate the time you took to explain the legal process to us.

Your help was extraordinary."



Dilcia R.

"This firm has an amazing team.

Mark has been my go to lawyer for years and I refer my friends to this firm as well.

Their honesty, patience and thoroughness is worth the investment."



Sabr A.

"I was fortunate to have **Tom** represent me in an employment matter.

I was extremely pleased from start to finish.

Would definitely recommend!!!"



Andre B.

Ready to Move Forward? Don't let legal uncertainty hold you back.

Our team has the experience, the results, and the commitment to protect what matters most to you.

Let's talk about your next steps.

Contact us now at: 203-916-5164 or email us at info@wwblaw.com

"The duty of a lawyer is to guard the rights of the people."

William Jennings Bryan



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