

SUBSCRIBE [Sign In](#)

Recommended



Hospitals ready to make room if COVID patients surge



NEWS // CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut settles disability complaint over hospital visitation

Christine Stuart, CTNewsJunkie.com

June 10, 2020 | Updated: June 10, 2020 12 a.m.



Only 99¢ for 12 weeks

Get Limited-Time Offer



Connecticut hospitals, still trying to recover from months of sluggish emergency room traffic and no elective surgeries during the height of the pandemic, is seeking \$450 million in state relief.
Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

The federal Office of Civil Rights reached an agreement Tuesday with the state of Connecticut that allows caregivers of those with disabilities to have a support person accompany them to hospitals and other medical settings.

Disability Rights Connecticut and several other advocacy groups filed a [complaint](#) with the U.S. Office of Civil Rights on May 4 urging the federal agency to “immediately investigate and take swift action” to resolve allegations of disability discrimination.

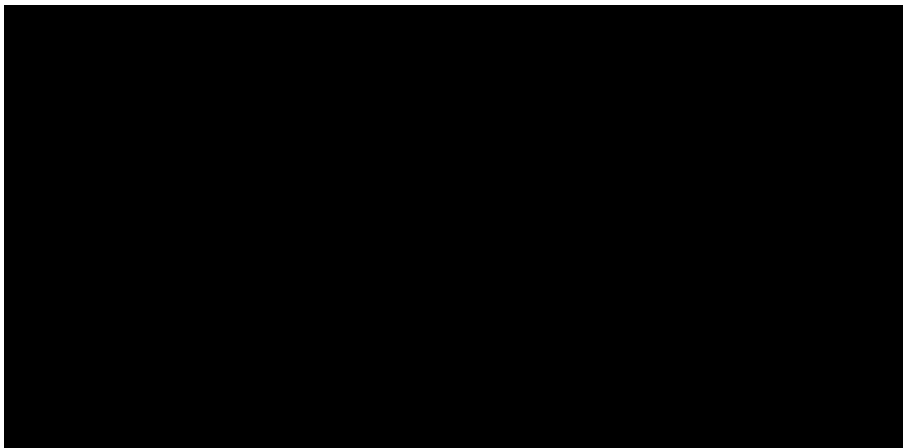


One of the leading global challenges that we face remains climate change. Anthony J. Kuczinski,...

by Munich Reinsurance America

Because of COVID-19, hospitals and other medical settings were not allowing the caregivers of persons with disabilities the opportunity to accompany their loved ones to the hospital.





As part of the resolution reached Tuesday, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont is expected to issue an executive order to ensure that people with disabilities have reasonable access to support personnel in hospital settings in a manner that is consistent with disability rights laws and the health and safety of patients, health care providers, and support persons.

“As vulnerable populations around the state continue to be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a priority for my office and the state to come to a resolution on allowing a support person to accompany and advocate for individuals with disabilities into our hospitals,” Lamont stated. “The order issued by Commissioner Gifford implements vital safeguards for individuals with special needs to ensure proper and safe care is being provided and received in a hospital setting.”

The order, according to a press release from the Office of Civil Rights, will include establishing a statewide policy requiring hospitals and other acute care settings to permit the entrance of a designated support person for a patient with a disability and permitting family members, service providers or other individuals knowledgeable about the needs of the person with a disability to serve as a designated support person. Where patients with a disability are in such a setting for longer than one day, they may designate two support persons, provided only one is present at a time.

ADVERTISEMENT
Article continues below this ad

The Department of Developmental Services and the Connecticut Hospital Association reached an agreement at the end of April to allow some caregivers to accompany their loved one with an intellectual and developmental disability to the hospital. But the accommodation was limited to only those receiving services from DDS.

The guidance “unlawfully limits protections to only those individuals with I/DD who are served by DSS,” Disability Rights Connecticut said in their complaint. “The letter excludes people with disabilities in Connecticut not served by DDS, as well as those who do not have I/DD but have equally critical needs for, and the legal right to, a support person to accompany them to the hospital.”

With the exception of three Connecticut hospitals operated by Nuvance Health, which also operates hospitals in New York, not a single Connecticut hospital had an exception to its visitation prohibition for support persons for individuals with disabilities, according to DRCT.

DRCT was joined in filing the federal complaint by the Center for Public Representation and CommunicationFIRST, both based in Washington, D.C., and The Arc of Connecticut, The Arc of the United States, and Independence Northwest: Center for Independent Living of Northwest CT.

ADVERTISEMENT
Article continues below this ad

From The Web

[Promoted Links](#)

Man Who Predicted 2020 Crash 45 Days Early Issues Next Major Warning

Grab A Tissue – Prince Charles’ Frank Admission About Baby Archie Is Tragic

Elite Herald

Saving money on car insurance? Thumbs up!

Progressive | Auto Insurance Quotes



Local

Fatal crash shut down I-95 in Milford for roughly 7 hours

CTPOST

The Israeli-made Face Mask Everyone Is Talking About In the US

The Jerusalem Post

Dark Spots On Your Face? Here's How To Clear Them Fast

Gundry MD

Randy Jackson: This 3 Minute Routine Transformed My Health

Unify Health Labs Multi-GI 5 Supplement

Jackie Kennedy's Granddaughter Is A Billionaire

Money Pop

[by Taboola](#)

EXPERT OPINION

DAN HAAR
Columnist
and
Associate
Editor



The Yale CEO Summit held by Jeffrey Sonnenfeld showed support for corporate vaccine mandates and a widespread view that Trump has hurt U.S. standing.



Haar:
CEOs
weigh in
on
vaccine
mandates
and
Trump

COLIN MCENROE
Columnist



Columnist Colin McEnroe has started to wonder if he's been fair to Donald Trump.



Colin McEnroe's script for 'A Christmas Carol, 2020'

JEFF JACOBS
Columnist



This 209-page effort is the source authority for anyone who loves, cares or wants to know about Yale football. It's all there.



Marazzi returns with more fascinating Yale football stories

MICHAEL DALY
Columnist



"You're the first thing I read on Sunday!" I've heard more than once. Flattering, indeed. And, oh, by the way, no pressure for the next...



Daly: The final deadline

MOST POPULAR

- 1. Police: Ongoing dispute likely led to double fatal Bridgeport shooting**

PAID CONTENT



Multi-dimensional Online Learning from the New Stepping Stones Studio

BY: STEPPING STONES MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN

Written By **Christine Stuart**

VIEW COMMENTS

IN-DEPTH COVERAGE



- Hospitals ready to make room if COVID patients surge



- Shock, dismay and questions linger after deadly Greenwich crash



- Police reform group trying to make work transparent



- Activist wants people of color to get accurate COVID information



Man Who Predicted 2020 Crash 45 Days Early Issues Next Major Warning

Why popular tech stocks could be in for a 92% meltdown - and the #1 investment billionaires are turning to now...

The Legacy Report |

Sponsored



Grab A Tissue – Prince Charles' Frank Admission About Baby Archie Is Tragic

Elite Herald |

Sponsored



Saving money on car insurance? Thumbs up!

Progressive | Auto Insurance Quotes |

Sponsored



The Israeli-made Face Mask Everyone Is Talking About In the US

The Jerusalem Post |

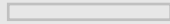
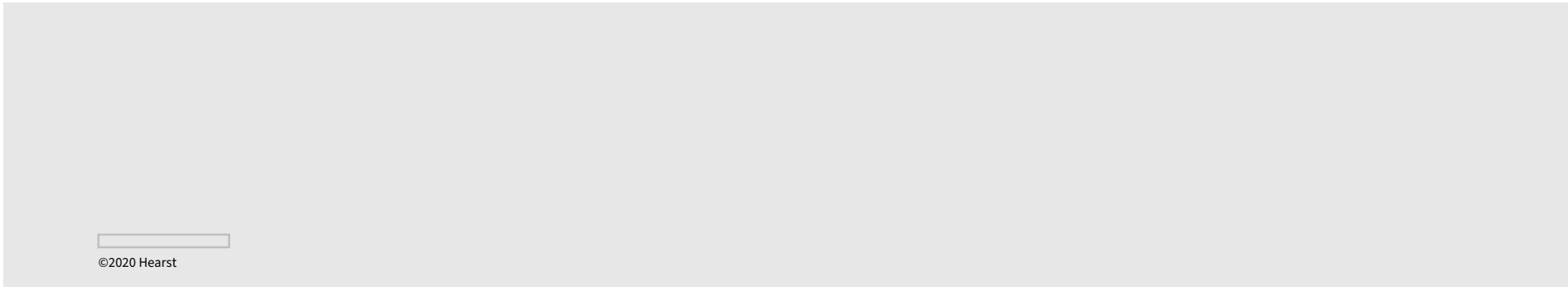
Sponsored



Dark Spots On Your Face? Here's How To Clear Them Fast

Gundry MD |

Sponsored



©2020 Hearst