

# Under 21 Motor Vehicle/ Underage Drinking Program



The Under 21 Motor Vehicle/Underage Drinking Program allows certain defendants who are charged with certain motor vehicle and underage drinking violations, and who were under the age of 21 at the time of their offense, to attend an educational program instead of paying the fine or going to trial for the offense. Defendants who want to take part in the Under 21 Motor Vehicle/Underage Drinking Program must meet the eligibility requirements in section 54-56p of the Connecticut General Statutes, and must submit an application to the court.

When a defendant applies for the Under 21 Motor Vehicle/Underage Drinking Program, the court will send the defendant to the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to figure out whether the defendant is eligible for this program.

If the defendant is eligible, and the court grants the defendant's application for the program, the court will require the defendant to take part in a non-confrontational forum run by a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of victims of accidents caused by people who operated motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. During the forum, the defendant will hear from victims who have been affected by underage drinking, drunk driving, distracted driving, or other motor vehicle violations. The organization running the forum may charge the defendant up to \$50 to take part in this forum.

If the defendant successfully completes this program, the charges against the defendant will be dismissed within 9 months of when the court grants the defendant's application for the program.



The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact your Probation Officer or an ADA contact person listed at [www.jud.ct.gov/ADA/](http://www.jud.ct.gov/ADA/).

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