

Forced Electroshock Treatment Petitions Filed in the State of Connecticut (2012-2024)

J Flannery¹

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Data is presented demonstrating the number of forced electroshock petitions filed by mental health facilities in the State of Connecticut between 2012 and 2024.

BACKGROUND

The invention of electroshock treatment dates back to 1938 and is credited to the late Ugo Cerletti [1]. While research indicates it may be the best treatment available for treating the symptoms associated with the diagnosis of “major depressive disorder” [2], electroshock treatment is also used on people diagnosed with a variety of other disorders (such as “schizophrenia disorder”) as well [3].

Side effects may include permanent memory loss [4] and others that need not be mentioned if you read the first part of this sentence [5].

Connecticut state law provides for the permitted use of “forced shock therapy,” which is the involuntary use of electroshock treatment [6].

METHODS

Data on petitions filed with Connecticut probate courts by mental health facilities requesting permission to perform forced electroshock was obtained through written requests to the State of Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator [7].

RESULTS

The number of petitions filed by mental health facilities in each probate district of the State of Connecticut was received dating back to 2012. A summary of the results is presented in **Figure 1**.

DISCUSSION

Further inquiry is needed to understand why the number of petitions increased so drastically in 2015, beginning with:

- What happened in Connecticut in 2015?
- How does Connecticut’s data compare to the other united states?

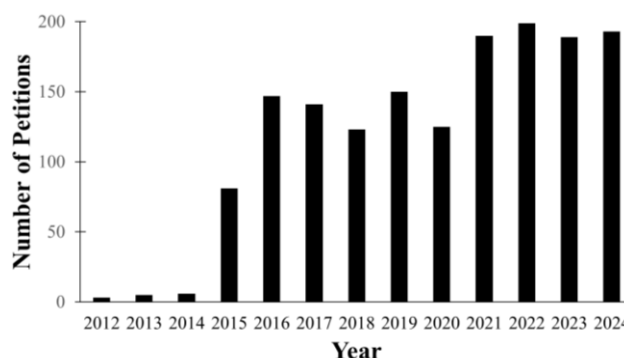


Fig. 1 Forced electroshock petitions filed by mental health facilities in Connecticut between 2012 and 2024.

CONCLUSION

Too bad to be true?

REFERENCES

- 1-5 error — page limit approaching
- 6 Procedures governing medication, treatment, psychosurgery and shock therapy. 319i C.G.S. § 17a-543(c)
- 7 Written correspondences with Connecticut Probate Court Administration (attached)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

What could I possibly write to honor the victims and survivors of this horrific torture? *I’m sorry I didn’t do this sooner.*

And, this:

ACT NOW! Or... don’t bother.
Maybe mention it to a neighbor,
Or maybe to a squirrel.
Perhaps an infant toddler,
anyone will do!

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flantascience, corp*

James Flannery
222 Williams St. E #422
Glastonbury, CT 06033

August 13, 2025

ATTN: Law Department
Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

To Whom It May Concern:

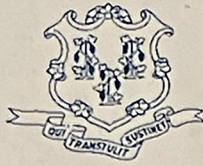
I am writing to request a listing of the probate hearings pertaining to involuntary shock therapy in the State of Connecticut from 2010 to present, as well as the court decisions.

The information may be sent by email to jim-flannery@proton.me or by mail at the address in the heading of this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Flannery



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

BEVERLY K. STREIT
Probate Court Administrator

HEATHER L. DOSTALER
Chief Counsel

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TEL (860) 231-2442
FAX (860) 231-1055
ctprobate.gov

August 20, 2025

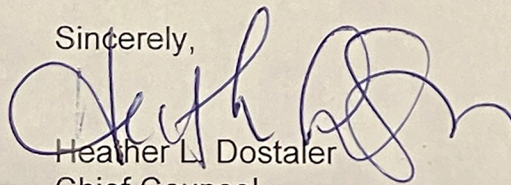
Mr. James Flannery
222 Williams Street E
#422
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Flannery:

This is in response to your request dated August 13, 2025 requesting "a listing of the probate hearings pertaining to involuntary shock therapy in the State of Connecticut from 2010 to present, as well as the court decisions." Please be advised that records relating to shock therapy are confidential pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-500(a) and, therefore, the Office of the Probate Court Administrator is prohibited from disclosing the names of individuals who have been the subject of a petition for shock therapy or providing a copy of court decisions relating to any court decision regarding shock therapy.

Sincerely,



Heather L. Dostaler
Chief Counsel

James Flannery
222 Williams St. E #422
Glastonbury, CT 06033

August 22, 2025

ATTN: Law Department
Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request information on all of the probate hearings pertaining to involuntary shock therapy in the State of Connecticut from 2010 to present. Specifically, I am requesting:

- the dates,
- docket numbers,
- the names of the probate court that the petition was submitted to,
- the district numbers of said probate court,
- the names of the hospitals that filed the petitions, and
- the names of the facilities that were petitioned to administer the shock therapy.

For clarity, I am not requesting the names of individuals who have been the subject of petitions for shock therapy nor copies of the court decisions.

The information may be sent by email to jim-flannery@proton.me or by mail at the address in the heading of this letter.

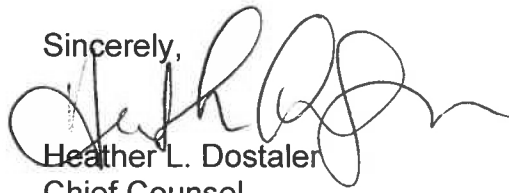
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Flannery

Probate Court	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ellington (PD12)								4					1	
Greater Manchester (PD13)			1	5					2	3				
Middletown (PD15)				54	78	64	55	38	33	49	64	55	40	72
Wallingford (PD17)						1					1			
Waterbury (PD20)			2	1		1		2			1			1
Torrington (PD23)										1	1	1	2	2
Tolland-Mansfield (PD25)								1	3	1	2	1	5	2
Norwich (PD29)							1						1	1
New London (PD31)				2		2		1			1	1	1	1
Saybrook (PD33)												2		
East Haven-North Haven (PD36)								1						
New Haven (PD38)				9	17	38	24	28	30	46	45	50	42	35
West Haven (PD39)				1		1			5	11	21	10	4	
Danbury (PD43)				4	9	8	2	6	6	10	7	10	11	4
Bridgeport (PD48)						2	2	2	2	4	8	8	9	4
Westport (PD50)												1		
Darien-New Canaan (PD52)					1			1			1			
Stamford (PD53)					2					1			2	

Please be advised that the probate courts do not have information relating to petitions for shock therapy prior to calendar year 2012. In addition, the dates of petitions, names of the hospitals that filed the petitions and the names of the facilities that were petitioned to administer the shock therapy is not information maintained by the probate courts. Finally, I cannot provide the docket numbers for these petitions as this information is confidential case information.

Sincerely,

 Heather L. Dostaler
 Chief Counsel