

Body Armor and Connecticut Law

By: Rute Pinho, Chief Analyst
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Issue

Summarize Connecticut's laws on body armor. This report updates OLR Report [2019-R-0250](#). **This report has been updated by OLR Report [2023-R-0301](#).**

Summary

State law defines “body armor” as any material designed to be worn on the body and to provide bullet penetration resistance and makes it a crime for certain individuals to possess body armor or improperly transfer it. Specifically, it is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both, for anyone convicted of specific felonies or a serious juvenile offense to possess body armor. Additionally, it is a class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both, to sell or deliver body armor without personally meeting the acquirer. However, transfers to or on behalf of certain law enforcement personnel and armed forces members are exempt and therefore do not have to be done in person.

Criminal Possession of Body Armor

It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone convicted of the following offenses to possess body armor:

1. a capital felony (i.e., a death penalty case in effect before April 25, 2012);
2. any class A felony other than employing a minor in an obscene performance;
3. any class B felony other than 1st degree promoting prostitution, 1st degree larceny, or promoting a minor in an obscene performance;
4. any class C felony other than 2nd degree promoting prostitution, bribery of a juror, or bribe receiving by a juror;

5. a class D felony for the following:
 - a. 2nd degree assault with or without a firearm;
 - b. 2nd degree assault, with or without a firearm, of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or a person with intellectual disability;
 - c. 3rd degree sexual assault with or without a firearm;
 - d. 1st degree unlawful restraint;
 - e. 3rd degree burglary with or without a firearm;
 - f. reckless burning;
 - g. 3rd degree robbery; or
 - h. criminal use of a firearm or electronic defense weapon (e.g., taser); or
6. any serious juvenile offense ([CGS § 53a-217d](#)).

More than 50 crimes are listed as “serious juvenile offenses” ([CGS § 46b-120](#), as amended by [PA 22-115](#)). They include most class A felonies, many class B and C felonies, and some class D felonies. Examples of the crimes include murder, manslaughter, and certain assaults; 1st degree sexual or aggravated sexual assault; kidnapping; home invasion; arson; certain drug or gun offenses; bomb manufacturing; and several loan-shark-type offenses. Juveniles convicted of serious juvenile offenses face more severe consequences than other juveniles.

Illegal Sale of Body Armor

It is a class B misdemeanor to sell or deliver body armor without the transfer occurring in person. However, the law exempts sales or deliveries to:

1. authorized officials or sworn members of local police departments, the State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Correction, the Board or Pardons and Paroles, or the Department of Motor Vehicles;
2. authorized municipal or Department of Administrative Services’ officials who buy body armor for the above agencies;
3. authorized Judicial Branch officials who buy body armor for probation officers or judicial marshals; and
4. National Guard or armed forces reserve members ([CGS § 53-341b](#)).

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