

Connecticut Dram Shop Law



The dram shop law imposes liability on selling alcohol to an intoxicated person.

Connecticut General Statutes Section 30-102 provides that someone who sells alcohol to an intoxicated person is liable if the purchaser causes injuries or property damage to someone else due to their intoxication. (The Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled that this means visible or otherwise perceivable intoxication at the time of the sale.) Damages in these cases are capped at \$250,000, and a one-year statute of limitations applies. The plaintiff must provide a written notice to the seller of their intention to bring an action under the statute. The notice generally must be provided within 120 days. The statute also provides that an injured person will not have a cause of action against the seller for negligence in selling alcohol to someone 21 or older.

Meanwhile, the Connecticut Supreme Court has found that a social host or other purveyor of alcohol will be liable for injuries caused by a minor whom they served if a court or jury finds a proximate cause relationship between the service of alcohol and the damages ensuing from the minor's consumption. Some lower courts have ruled that a social host may be liable for negligently serving alcohol to an adult.