



Questionnaire for Connecticut Inspector General Applicants

1. Do you believe that (a) the Inspector General must acknowledge racial disparities in policing, prosecution, incarceration, and the criminal justice system overall and (b) the Inspector General has a responsibility to take affirmative steps to end systemic racial disparities? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to both subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

There is sufficient historical evidence that racial disparities have existed. The degree to which those disparities have existed and do exist vary from state to state and from locale to locale. They also vary from generation to generation. The Inspector General’s role is limited by state statute to include the investigation of the use of force by law enforcement resulting in a death, investigations of failures to report deaths in law enforcement or Department of Corrections custody and investigations of failures to intervene when a death occurs in law enforcement or Corrections custody. If the use of force was not justified, the law allows the office to prosecute the case. The office also makes recommendations concerning the censure, suspension, revocation, renewal and cancellation of an officer’s certification.

2. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable when they cause unnecessary physical harm of Connecticut residents? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

The office of Inspector General is not charged with investigating incidents of “unnecessary physical harm.” Unnecessary physical harm can include incidents in which there is no death and in which there was no use of deadly physical force.

3. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable when they unnecessarily kill Connecticut residents? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Criminal liability attaches when a police officer in the performance of his or her duties uses deadly physical force which the inspector general determines was not justified, resulting in the death of that person. An “unnecessary” standard is not defined in the statutory scheme.

4. Do you believe the current statutory standard for determining when police are allowed to use deadly physical force makes it clear that an officer is only allowed to



use deadly physical force when it is absolutely necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

The legal standard does not include the terms “absolutely necessary.” Our rules of statutory construction require that the words of the statute have their common and ordinary meaning. Connecticut General Statutes section 53a-22 provides that the use of deadly physical force must be “objectively reasonable” and that the officer must “reasonably believe” such use of force is “necessary” to defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force or he or she has “reasonably determined” that there are no “available reasonable alternatives” to the use of deadly physical force.

5. Do you believe that the standard in Public Act 21-4 for determining when police are allowed to use deadly physical force, which took effect January 1, 2022, makes it clear that an officer is allowed to use deadly physical force only when it is absolutely necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Please refer to my response to question #4.

6. Do you believe police officers should be protected from criminal liability when their use of physical force was reasonable under all the circumstances, but not absolutely necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Please refer to my response in question #4.

7. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only allowed if it is clear that police did not, through their actions, create a situation in which deadly force was necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Any proposed change in the law would require the office of the Inspector General to carefully analyze the language, and the potential benefits and disadvantages of the proposed legislation. However, when law enforcement action created a scenario where deadly force was necessary, the office may recommend suspension, censure, renewal, revocation, or cancellation of the officer’s certification.

8. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only

The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization that defends, promotes and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions in state and federal court, the General Assembly, and the state’s 169 towns and cities.



allowed if it is clear that the force used by police was the minimum necessary to resolve the situation? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Any proposed change in the law would require the office of the Inspector General to carefully analyze the language, and the potential benefits and disadvantages of the proposed legislation.

9. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only allowed if it is clear that the force used by police was necessary because all other available, effective alternatives had been exhausted? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Any proposed change in the law would require the office of the Inspector General to carefully analyze the language and the potential benefits and disadvantages of the proposed legislation. Currently, the law allows an officer to use deadly physical force when that officer has reasonably determined that the use of force is necessary and has concluded that there were no other available reasonable alternatives.

10. Will you commit to holding an open, public meeting in the community where a police use of deadly force occurred, within 30 days after publishing your report on the investigation, to present your report and provide the community an opportunity to publicly comment on it and/or the incident? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

I would consider holding an open public meeting if there was a request by a community group to hold such a meeting.

11. When you investigate a matter, will you commit to investigating the impact the patterns, practices, and/or policies of law enforcement unit(s) involved had on the subject matter under your investigation? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

The impact of law enforcement patterns, practices, and/or policies are best explored through views expressed by victims, community groups and other stakeholders. The office’s investigative reports primarily focus on the determination of the facts involved in each incident and whether, ultimately, law enforcement activity was justified. However, where patterns can be seen that would warrant this office to offer proposals to the legislature concerning patterns, practices and policies, I would consider doing so.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization that defends, promotes and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions in state and federal court, the General Assembly, and the state’s 169 towns and cities.



12. Will you commit to making licensure recommendations, including decertification and suspension recommendations, to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council if you find, after complete investigation, that a police officer has:

1. used physical force unjustifiably;
2. engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence in law enforcement, including, but not limited to, discriminatory conduct, falsification of reports, or violating the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act; or
3. violated any policy of the law enforcement unit employing the officer?

Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

Connecticut General Statute section 51-277e authorizes the Inspector General to make recommendations to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council concerning censure, suspension, renewal, cancellation or revocation of a police officer’s certification. Concerning subparts 1 and 2, recommendations would be made on a case by case basis. As I read the current law, the Inspector General’s authority may not extend to making recommendations concerning violations of a policy of the law enforcement unit employing the officer.

13. If, after a complete investigation, you find that a police officer (a) used physical force unjustifiably and/or (b) engaged in other criminal conduct, will you commit to pursuing justice and redress for such actions to the greatest extent of your discretion? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

Pursuant to 51-277e, the office shall prosecute any case in which the Inspector General determines a peace officer used force found not to be justifiable pursuant to section 53a-22 or where a police officer or correctional officer fails to intervene in any such incident or to report any such incident as required. . . The duty of the office in such circumstances is to prosecute when there is force found not to be justifiable. In circumstances where criminal conduct has occurred but physical force played no role in the death, the office may refer the matter to a local State’s Attorney or the Chief State’s Attorneys’s office.

14. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) supporting the creation of a statewide "Brady List" available to the public upon request, and (b) ensuring police officers that are on the statewide "Brady List" are decertified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.



The creation of a “Brady List” is first a matter for legislative enactment. I would welcome the opportunity for the office to address the issue in a public hearing on any proposals.

15. Will you commit to fairness and transparency by supporting policy proposals that require uniform policies and procedures to be promulgated by the Division of Criminal Justice Advisory Board for all 13 state's attorneys?

Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

A commitment to fairness and transparency, I support. The avenues by which fairness and transparency are achieved must first be carefully examined and considered.

***Please direct all responses to Chelsea-Infinity Gonzalez at
cgonzalez@acluct.org on or before the close of business on April 21, 2025.***