

Absentee Ballot Procedures for Late-Occurring Events

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October 20, 2020 | 2020-R-0235

Issue

Provide a general overview of the absentee ballot procedures outlined in [CGS § 9-150c](#) and [CGS § 9-159o](#) regarding late-occurring events.

Absentee Ballot Delivery in Cases of Late-Occurring Illness, Disability, or Hospitalization

Under [CGS § 9-150c](#), an applicant who applies for an absentee ballot within six days of an election, primary, or referendum because of an unforeseen illness, physical disability, or hospitalization may appoint certain individuals to serve as a designee to deliver the ballot to him or her. He or she may do so by stating the following in the designated space on the absentee ballot application:

1. the date when the illness or disability occurred or the name and address of the hospital where he or she is a patient within the six-day period;
2. the name, address, and category of the designee (per [CGS § 9-140b\(b\)](#), the designee must be either (a) a caregiver such as a licensed physician or registered or practical nurse, (b) a consenting family member, or (c) if no such person consents or is available, then a police officer, registrar of voters, or deputy or assistant registrar of voters in the applicant's municipality); and
3. the delivery that the designee will perform, provided the designee also signs a statement on the application consenting to delivering the ballot without tampering with it in any way.

The applicant's designee must personally submit the application to the town clerk within six days before the polls close for an election or primary. If the application is dated within that time period, the clerk must give the designee the absentee voting set.

Voting In-Person After Absentee Ballot Has Been Returned

Under [CGS § 9-159o](#), electors who submit an absentee ballot, but later find they are able to vote in-person, must go before 10:00 a.m. on election day to the town clerk's office and request to withdraw the absentee ballot. For the 2020 state election, [PA 20-4, September Special Session](#) (§ 7) moves this deadline up for the 2020 state election, to 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day before the election (i.e., Friday, October 30). ([PA 20-3, July Special Session](#) (§ 7), superseded by PA 20-4, moved the deadline from 10:00 a.m. on election day to 5:00 p.m. the day before the election.)

After an elector requests to withdraw his or her absentee ballot, it is then withdrawn under the following procedure:

1. the town clerk marks the serially-numbered outer envelope "rejected," notes the reasons for rejection, and has the elector endorse the envelope (the ballot envelope is never opened and is then returned to the sealed package where it is secured until delivery to the registrars of voters on election, primary or referendum day);
2. the clerk gives the elector a signed statement, directed to the moderator of the elector's voting district, that the elector has withdrawn his or her absentee ballot and may vote in-person; and
3. when the elector delivers the statement to the moderator on election day, the moderator strikes the absentee indication next to the elector's name on the official voting checklist, allowing the elector to then vote in-person.

Unless absentee ballots are being counted at their respective polling places, the town clerk must also strike the absentee indication next to the elector's name from the duplicate checklist to be used by the absentee ballot counters.

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