

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
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Jeanne Milstein
Child Advocate

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NEWS RELEASE
FROM THE CHILD ADVOCATE

CONNECTICUT'S CHILD ADVOCATE JEANNE MILSTEIN TO RETIRE

Connecticut's Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein today announced that she will retire from State Service effective March 1, 2012.

"It is with great pride and sadness that I announce that I will be stepping down from my position as the State's Child Advocate," said Milstein. "This has been my life, my passion. I am so grateful and humbled to have served the children of Connecticut. I, along with my unbelievably talented and dedicated team, have fought hard for our children, particularly our most vulnerable and youngest citizens. I have cherished every moment in my position and want to assure the citizens of Connecticut that the work of Office of the Child Advocate will continue. The health and well-being of Connecticut's children depends on the unique independence and authority of the OCA to help keep us all accountable to our next generation."

Milstein has served as the Child Advocate since June 2000. She is the public voice for children who, too often, have no one to speak on their behalf. Under her leadership as the state's third Child Advocate, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) has investigated and resolved thousands of citizens' concerns regarding the provision of state or state-funded services to children, provided direct assistance to hundreds of children and families, reviewed many programs and facilities funded and/or operated by the state for children, examined the circumstances of Connecticut's children with special health care needs, and provided education and assistance to attorneys representing children, all the while keeping the citizens of Connecticut informed. Milstein has been a powerful spokesperson on issues affecting the well-being of Connecticut's most vulnerable children, advocating for practice and policy changes to protect and promote their health and well-being. During Milstein's tenure, the OCA produced numerous public reports detailing this work, providing recommendations for systemic change and improvement. Milstein's participation on innumerable statewide task forces and work groups focused on children has helped to ensure the voice of children is heard.

Milstein serves as the chairperson of the statewide Child Fatality Review Panel, charged with reviewing the circumstances of the death of any child placed in out-of-home care or whose death was due to unexpected or unexplained causes, to facilitate development of prevention strategies and improve coordination of services for children and families in the state. As Child Advocate, Milstein has conducted in-depth investigations when determined necessary by circumstances, including a recent report offering a ten-year review of child fatalities in Connecticut.

Milstein's 28-year history of public service to Connecticut includes previous positions as Director of Government Relations for the Department of Children and Families and Legislative Director for the Connecticut Commission for Children, state licensed child care programs quality oversight in the former Connecticut Department of Human Resources, and Legislative Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Milstein also served as Executive Director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. Millstein served as the U.S. Representative at the O8 Summit of Ombudspersons for Children from G-8 countries that took place in Nuoro, Italy in June 2009.

Jeanne Milstein is a resident of West Hartford and a graduate of Cornell University.

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