



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL ANNOUNCES WAYS TO HELP IN THE
AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE SANDY**

(November 2, 2012-New Britain, CT) - Connecticut's Office of Consumer Counsel understands that many people would like to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz would like to echo Governor Malloy's "How To Help" that is posted on the Governor's website at [Storm Sandy Response and Recovery](#).

Volunteering: The Connecticut Red Cross is asking interested volunteers to email ctvol@ctredcross.org with their phone number and email address. The Red Cross will then contact them with further information about how they can help out.

Blood Donations: The Red Cross is reporting a shortfall of more than 7,000 blood donations in the Northeast. To find the location closest to your home if you're interested in donating blood, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Monetary Donations: Persons interested in donating to charitable solicitations for hurricane recovery efforts are encouraged to review "[Tips for Giving in Times of Crisis](#)" available online from [Charity Navigator](#) in order to avoid charities fraud. Charity Navigator has also prepared [a webpage specific to Hurricane Sandy](#) with tips for making smart giving decisions in the wake of the storm, as well as a list of highly-rated charities responding.

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.