



## Connecticut Safety Valves

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Laws change frequently, and this may not be an up-to-date description of safety valves available. Talk with a lawyer in your state if you have questions about safety valves.**

Code Section	Safety Valve Provision for Drug Offenses
CGS § 21a-283a	<p>Courts may depart from the mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug offenses* if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the crime did not involve use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against another person AND</li> <li>-the crime did not result in the physical injury or serious physical injury of another person AND</li> <li>-in the commission of the offense, the offender neither was armed with nor threatened the use of or displayed or represented by word or conduct that such person possessed any firearm, deadly weapon or dangerous instrument AND</li> <li>-the defendant shows good cause for the departure.</li> </ul> <p>The safety valve cannot be invoked if it has previously been used for the defendant, and the court must state in open court the reasons for departing from the mandatory minimum sentence.</p>

\*The safety valve does not apply to violations of CGS § 21a-278(a) and § 21a-278(c).