In Connecticut, an individual's property or cash may be forfeited by the state even if they have not been convicted or even accused of committing any crime. It's called civil asset forfeiture.

Civil asset forfeiture is different from criminal asset forfeiture, which requires the state to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a person has committed a crime before their property or cash can be forfeited. With civil asset forfeiture, no criminal conviction is required.

It often costs more to hire a lawyer to contest a civil forfeiture than the value of property taken.

In addition to cash, CT police also seized: Dirt bikes, gold chains and pendants, iPads, TV’s, Blu-ray players, dozens of cell phones and other items.

Civil asset forfeiture is not necessary for police to do their jobs properly, nor is it necessary for the protection of public safety. To protect due process and private property rights, CT should require a conviction for all forfeitures.

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