

USE OF THE TERM ARCHITECT

The practice of architecture is the rendering of services in connection with the design and construction of buildings, and the site surrounding such buildings, which have human occupancy or use as their principal purpose. Architects are required to make decisions that affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Architects are required to obtain education, documented work experience, and pass a thorough examination to obtain their license. All states and countries have their own specific requirements for licensing architects, so that an architect licensed in one state or country cannot practice architecture in another state or country unless the architect is licensed there.

Connecticut defines the term “architect” and “the practice of architecture” in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-288:

(2) *"Architect" means a person who engages in the practice of architecture; and*

(3) *"The practice of architecture" or "practice architecture" means rendering or offering to render service by consultation, investigation, evaluations, preliminary studies, plans, specifications and coordination of structural factors concerning the aesthetic or structural design and contract administration of building construction or any other service in connection with the designing or contract administration of building construction located within the boundaries of this state, regardless of whether any person performing such duties is performing one or all of such duties or whether such person is performing them in person or as the directing head of an office or organization performing them.*

Since Architects are involved with the health, safety, and welfare of the public, the State of Connecticut regulates the use of the term “architect.” Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-290 states:

In order to safeguard life, health and property, no person shall practice architecture in this state, except as provided in this chapter, or use the title "architect", or display or use any words, letters, figures, title, sign, seal, advertisement or other device to indicate that such person practices or offers to practice architecture, unless such person has obtained a license as provided in this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent any Connecticut corporation in existence prior to 1933, whose charter authorizes the practice of architecture, from making plans and specifications or supervising the construction of any building, except that no such corporation shall issue plans or specifications unless such plans or specifications have been signed and sealed by an architect licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

A person representing that he or she is an architect or provides architectural services, without being licensed to do so, is misleading to the public and creates a danger to public’s health, safety and welfare.

In Connecticut, the practice of Architecture and the use of the term “Architect” are regulated by the Connecticut Architectural Licensing Board. The Statutes governing architects and the use of the term “architect” are found at Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-288 et seq. Penalties for conduct found to violate these Statutes include a civil penalty up to \$1,000.00, suspension of license, revocation of license and/or an Order of Immediate Discontinuance. More information regarding Architects and the practice of Architecture can be found at www.ct.gov/dcp.