

VOLUME 14



FAMILY VIOLENCE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Mary Mentaberry, Executive Director



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION PROJECT

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FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Family Violence Database Available

The Family Violence Department (FVD) of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) maintains and updates a family violence statutes database.¹ This database contains domestic violence-related statutes from the 50 states, District of Columbia, and many U.S. Territories. It is updated as legislation is added, deleted, or amended in each jurisdiction's legislative session.

The database was developed in conjunction with the *Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence*²

and may be helpful for persons interested in researching a particular area of law that addresses family violence. The FVD not only maintains the database, but also has staff available to provide information on existing state statutes that deal with domestic violence-related topics. Individuals can access the database through the NCJFCJ's website at www.ncjfcj.org, or can request information on existing state legislation from staff members by calling the FVD's Resource Center at (800) 527-3223.

¹The database was initially supported by funds from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Currently, funds from HHS support the maintenance and operation of the database.

²NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES, *MODEL CODE ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE* (1994).



FAMILY VIOLENCE
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

Introduction and Overview.....6
2008 State Legislation (Chart)10
2008 State Legislative Trends (Chart)14
Alaska.....18
Arizona19
California.....20
Colorado22
Connecticut.....24
District of Columbia25
Florida26
Hawaii.....28
Illinois30
Indiana.....33
Iowa37
Kentucky38
Louisiana.....39
Maine40
Maryland.....42
Minnesota.....43
Mississippi45
Missouri.....47
New Jersey.....50



FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

New Mexico	51
New York	54
North Carolina	56
Ohio	57
Oklahoma	59
Pennsylvania	62
Rhode Island.....	63
South Carolina.....	64
South Dakota	65
Tennessee	66
Utah	68
Vermont.....	71
Virginia.....	75
Washington	77
West Virginia.....	79
Wisconsin	80
Wyoming.....	82
State Domestic Violence Coalitions	84
State Legislative Contacts.....	91
NCJFCJ Officers and Trustees.....	98
Family Violence Department Staff Members	99

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

by Amy Pincolini-Ford

The 2008 Legislative Session brought about many protective measures designed to assist victims of domestic violence and their families, including acknowledging the link between stalking and domestic violence, providing employment protections for victims of domestic violence, and expanding domestic violence protections to those individuals in a dating relationship. A continuing trend from the previous years is the passage of legislation that acknowledges the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. This session also saw four states pass legislation that allows for the electronic monitoring of domestic violence perpetrators.



The following is an overview of the important trends that were part of the 2008 Legislative Session regarding issues of domestic violence.

ANIMAL PROTECTIONS

Acknowledging the link between animal abuse/torture and domestic violence, seven states strengthened protections for animals. These protections ranged from allowing courts to award protection order petitioners care of animals (Louisiana) to making it a penalty to abuse animals (Alaska) or enhancing the penalties for animal abuse (Kentucky and Utah). Other animal-abuse related legislation included making child protective service workers

and law enforcement officers mandatory reporters of animal abuse (District of Columbia) and addressing animal abuse in stalking statutes (Maine and Missouri).

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION

Given the complexities of making a child custody and visitation decision in cases involving domestic violence, three states provided guidance for courts on the best interest of the child analysis and two states enhanced custody and visitation protections for victims and children. The guidance ranged from exempting consideration of a hallmark best interest of the child factor - frequent and continuing contact - when there is domestic violence (Hawaii) and directing the types of evidence courts can consider when making a finding of domestic violence under the best interest of the child analysis (South Dakota) to prohibiting courts from denying a protective parent custody, visitation, or contact with a child (New York). Additional custody and visitation protections for victims and their children focused on safety and included restricting a perpetrator's access to a child's health care records (Illinois) and allowing custodial parents to ask the court to suspend a noncustodial parent's visitation rights because of domestic violence, safety issues, or a failure to honor the existing visitation schedule (Vermont).

CONFIDENTIALITY

In an effort to enhance victim safety, 12 states passed laws designed to keep information disclosed by victims of domestic violence confidential. These laws included creating address confidentiality programs (Mississippi), expanding the pool of address confidentiality program participants (Oklahoma), and expanding the locations where an individual can apply for the address confidentiality program (Virginia). Other confidentiality of information-based legislation included allowing courts to order, in a visitation order, that a victim's and child's address remain confidential (Vermont) and making domestic violence advocates mandatory reporters of child neglect, abuse, or exploitation (Maine).

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Hawaii, Illinois, Ohio, and Oklahoma all passed legislation allowing courts to order electronic monitoring of domestic violence perpetrators. Hawaii allows it as a condition of probation; the remaining three states allow it in conjunction with a protection order, among other circumstances.

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

Because many victims of domestic violence have had to choose between safety and employment, four states established or expanded employment protections for victims of domestic violence. These protections ranged from expanding existing protections

(Iowa) to allowing employees who are victims of domestic violence to take leave to seek medical treatment, to obtain legal assistance, or to take action to increase their safety (Pennsylvania and Washington). Other employment protection-related legislation included requiring state agencies to establish domestic violence workplace policies (New Mexico).

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES

Domestic violence laws are becoming more sophisticated and are expanding their scope to address a range of batterer behaviors. Five states created new domestic violence crimes that range from recognizing the crimes of harassment by impersonation (Hawaii) and cyber-stalking and cyber-harassment (Rhode Island) to recognizing the crime of trespass upon the grounds or structure of a domestic violence shelter (South Carolina). Other new domestic violence crimes now recognized by states include committing domestic violence against a pregnant woman (Oklahoma) and interfering with access to emergency medical or law enforcement services (Vermont).



RECOGNITION OF DATING RELATIONSHIPS

An exciting trend during 2008, which recognizes that intimate relationships come in many forms, was the

expansion of domestic violence protections to individuals in dating relationships. These protections were expanded by extending stalking law protections to dating partners (Maine), expanding definitions of domestic violence to include dating relationships (Mississippi, New Mexico, and Tennessee), and giving rights and protections to same-sex partners (New York and Pennsylvania). Other expansive legislation included giving teens and dating partners the right to obtain protection orders (New York) and requiring dating violence education in schools (Rhode Island).



STALKING

Acknowledging the link between stalking and domestic violence and the increased safety concerns stalking creates for victims, 10 states strengthened or established protections for stalking victims. Some of these protections included expanding victim/advocate confidentiality to stalking victims (Indiana), enhancing criminal penalties for stalking (Missouri), requiring school administrators to report to law enforcement stalking that is committed on school grounds (Missouri), and ensuring stalking protection orders are afforded full faith and credit (Vermont).

VAWA COMPLIANCE

Four states passed legislation to ensure compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The

VAWA-related legislation included ensuring victims are not assessed costs associated with filing, issuing, serving, or registering a protection order (New Mexico and Tennessee), prohibiting “personally identifying information” from being placed on the Internet (New Mexico), defining the term “personally identifying information” (Indiana), and requiring judicial notification of firearms restrictions to domestic violence perpetrators (Ohio).

OTHERS

Some states passed legislation designed to address victim and child safety in a more specialized way. Connecticut passed legislation that allows courts to obtain testimony of a party or child, in family relations protective or restraining order matters, via video connection, a room other than the courtroom, or another location outside the courthouse or outside the state.

- Utah now allows courts to appoint a guardian ad litem where it appears from a petition for or modification of an order of protection that domestic violence or abuse occurred.
- Illinois passed legislation requiring a person charged with violating a protection order to undergo a risk assessment evaluation to help the court to determine bail conditions; Louisiana passed legislation that allows courts to order a medical evaluation of a defendant, abused

person, or both in order to determine whether an order of counseling or other medical treatment is appropriate in a protective order.

- Virginia and Missouri passed legislation that creates a rebuttable presumption against bail for persons believed to be unlawfully present in the United States; however, Virginia exempted first time offenses of family abuse from this presumption. Virginia also passed legislation to create a rebuttable presumption against bail for any person arrested for felony assault and battery against a family or household member.
- Finally, Vermont passed legislation that expands the definition of uninsured to include individuals who lost health insurance as a result of domestic violence. This expansion allows victims to immediately qualify for state health insurance plans.

OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION

The NCJFCJ's Family Violence Department extends our heartfelt thanks to everyone who is working to end domestic and family violence. Although we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this document, we receive information almost daily. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions. We would appreciate having these brought to our attention.

2008 STATE LEGISLATION*

STATE	DEFINITIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES	ORDERS FOR PROTECTION
ALABAMA			
ALASKA		X	
ARIZONA			X
ARKANSAS			
CALIFORNIA		X	X
COLORADO	X		X
CONNECTICUT			
DELAWARE			
DIST. OF COLUMBIA			X
FLORIDA		X	X
GEORGIA			
HAWAII		X	
IDAHO			
ILLINOIS		X	X
INDIANA	X	X	
IOWA			
KANSAS			
KENTUCKY		X	
LOUISIANA			X
MAINE	X	X	
MARYLAND			X
MASSACHUSETTS			
MICHIGAN			
MINNESOTA	X		X
MISSISSIPPI	X	X	
MISSOURI	X	X	
MONTANA			

* This chart represents legislation which was passed during the 2008 legislative sessions only. It is not a cumulative chart and does not include laws enacted in prior legislative sessions.

2008 STATE LEGISLATION*

FAMILY AND CHILDREN	PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	MISCELLANEOUS
		X
	X	
	X	X
		X
		X
X		
X		X
		X
		X
	X	X
		X
		X
		X
		X

2008 STATE LEGISLATION*

STATE	DEFINITIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES	ORDERS FOR PROTECTION
NEBRASKA			
NEVADA			
NEW HAMPSHIRE			
NEW JERSEY			
NEW MEXICO	X	X	X
NEW YORK	X	X	X
NORTH CAROLINA		X	
NORTH DAKOTA			
OHIO		X	X
OKLAHOMA		X	X
OREGON			
PENNSYLVANIA			
RHODE ISLAND		X	
SOUTH CAROLINA		X	X
SOUTH DAKOTA			X
TENNESSEE	X	X	X
TEXAS			
UTAH	X	X	X
VERMONT	X	X	X
VIRGINIA	X	X	X
WASHINGTON	X		X
WEST VIRGINIA		X	X
WISCONSIN	X	X	X
WYOMING			X

* This chart represents legislation which was passed during the 2008 legislative sessions only. It is not a cumulative chart and does not include laws enacted in prior legislative sessions.

2008 STATE LEGISLATION*

FAMILY AND CHILDREN	PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	MISCELLANEOUS
		X
	X	X
X		X
		X
		X
		X
		X
X		
X		X
X	X	X
		X
		X
		X

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE TRENDS*

STATE	CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION	CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION	ELECTRONIC MONITORING	EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS
ALABAMA				
ALASKA				
ARIZONA				
ARKANSAS				
CALIFORNIA				
COLORADO		X		
CONNECTICUT				
DELAWARE				
DIST. OF COLUMBIA		X		X
FLORIDA				
GEORGIA				
HAWAII	X		X	
IDAHO				
ILLINOIS	X	X	X	
INDIANA		X		
IOWA				X
KANSAS				
KENTUCKY				
LOUISIANA				
MAINE		X		
MARYLAND				
MASSACHUSETTS				
MICHIGAN				
MINNESOTA		X		
MISSISSIPPI		X		
MISSOURI				
MONTANA				

* This chart represents legislation which was passed during the 2008 legislative sessions only. It is not a cumulative chart and does not include laws enacted in prior legislative sessions.

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE TRENDS*

LENGTH OF PROTECTION ORDERS	LINK BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND ANIMAL ABUSE	NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES	RECOGNITION OF DATING RELATIONSHIPS	STALKING	VAWA COMPLIANCE
	X				
	X				
			X		
		X			
				X	X
	X				
	X				
X	X		X	X	
X					
			X		
	X			X	

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE TRENDS*

STATE	CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION	CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION	ELECTRONIC MONITORING	EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS
NEBRASKA				
NEVADA				
NEW HAMPSHIRE				
NEW JERSEY				
NEW MEXICO		X		X
NEW YORK	X	X		
NORTH CAROLINA				
NORTH DAKOTA				
OHIO			X	
OKLAHOMA		X	X	
OREGON				
PENNSYLVANIA				X
RHODE ISLAND				
SOUTH CAROLINA				
SOUTH DAKOTA	X			
TENNESSEE				
TEXAS				
UTAH				
VERMONT	X	X		
VIRGINIA		X		
WASHINGTON				X
WEST VIRGINIA				
WISCONSIN				
WYOMING				

* This chart represents legislation which was passed during the 2008 legislative sessions only. It is not a cumulative chart and does not include laws enacted in prior legislative sessions.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 121 days.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 11.41.220 is amended to include as a crime of assault in the third degree situations where a person commits assault and was convicted previously, on two or more separate occasions, of assault against or stalking of a family member. This statute is also amended to clarify that the intent of this change is to apply this enhanced crime to perpetrators of domestic violence and not to innocent victims of domestic violence.

§ 11.61.40 is amended to make knowingly killing or injuring an animal with the intent to intimidate, threaten, or terrorize another person a class A misdemeanor crime of cruelty to animals.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 44.66.010 is amended to allow the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to continue operating until June 30, 2014.



ARIZONA

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 100 days.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§§ 12-1809 and 13-3602 are amended to allow the court to review evidence of harassment by electronic contact or communication when determining whether to issue an injunction without further hearing.

CALIFORNIA



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts the first Monday in January of odd-numbered years and ends November 30 of the next even-numbered year.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 1219 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to prohibit courts from imprisoning a domestic violence victim who is found in contempt for refusing to testify.

§ 136.2 of the Penal Code is amended to allow the court to consider the underlying nature of the offense charged and the criminal history information provided to the court in any case where a complaint, information, or indictment charging a crime of domestic violence was filed.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 273.75 of the Penal Code is amended to require district attorneys or prosecutors to present to the court, when determining whether good cause exists to issue an ex parte protective order, information about the defendant's history, including prior domestic violence convictions, other forms of violence or weapons offenses, and any current protective or restraining order issued by any civil or criminal court.

§ 6320.5 is added to the Family Code and requires courts to include the reasons for denying a petition for an ex parte order; to give the petitioner the right to a hearing on the earliest possible date that the business of the court permits when a petition for an ex parte order is denied; and to give the petitioner the option of waiving his or her right to the hearing.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:

§ 1462.7 is added to the Penal Code to impose a fee of not more than \$250 for every fine, penalty, or forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for a domestic violence crime. This money will fund domestic violence prevention programs that focus on assisting immigrants, refugees, or persons who live in a rural community.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 120 days.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 24-21-203, of the address confidentiality program statutes, is amended to make the county and precinct number of an individual confidential because that information is now considered part of a person's "actual address."

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 18-6-803.5 is amended to clarify that law enforcement officers may give notice of the contents of a protection order to a person who is the subject of the order and that this type of notice satisfies the knowledge element in a criminal case involving a violation of a protection order.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:

§ 16-11.8-103 is amended to require that the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (Board) ensure that treatment providers complete mandatory continuing education courses in areas related to domestic violence; to allow the Board to take action against a treatment provider, including removing said provider from the approved provider list; and to require the Board to provide a renewal process for the continued placement of a treatment provider on the approved provider list.

§ 16-11.8-104 is amended to allow the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board to assess a fee, not to exceed \$300, to a person who applies for initial placement or renewed placement on the approved provider list. This fee covers, among other things, the costs associated with the initial application review and renewal process and other costs associated with administering the program.

§ 24-23-104 is amended to require that the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board terminate on September 1, 2017.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 24-21-205 is amended to allow persons who are over 18 years of age and are living with an applicant for the address confidentiality program to apply for participation in said program when doing so would help ensure the safety of the applicant.

§ 24-21-208 is amended to require school districts to accept a substitute address as the address of record, to verify student enrollment eligibility through the secretary of state, and to require the secretary of state to bear the burden of facilitating the transfer of student records from one school to another.

CONNECTICUT



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. In odd-numbered years, the session starts in January and ends in June; in even-numbered years, the session starts in February and ends in May.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Public Act No. 08-67 was enacted to allow for alternative means to obtain the testimony of a party or child in family relation matters where a protective order, restraining order, or standing criminal restraining order was issued on behalf of the party or child and the other party is subject to the protective or restraining order. Such alternative means include obtaining testimony by a secure video connection for the purpose of conducting hearings via videoconference, taking testimony in a room other than the courtroom, or taking testimony at another location outside the courthouse or outside the state.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

The session starts January 2 of each odd-numbered year and ends on January 1 of the following odd-numbered year.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 16-1005 is amended to establish animal cruelty as grounds for the issuance of a protection order and to give the court authority to direct the care, custody, or control of such animals.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 22-1001 is amended to allow the court to order a person convicted of animal cruelty to attend undergo counseling, to forfeit any rights to the animal, to repay costs incurred by any agency caring for the animal, and to restrict ownership or possession of an animal for a specified period of time. This statute is also amended to require law enforcement or child protective services to report suspected animal cruelty to the mayor.

§ 22-1004 is amended to require that animal owners charged with animal cruelty be given notice and a hearing to contest the charge, the imposition of a lien, and/or the costs assessed for caring and providing for the animal.

D.C. Law 17-152, the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008, was created to require that employers provide paid leave to employees for illnesses and absences associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in March and is limited to 60 days.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 921.244 is amended to add convictions for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated battery, and aggravated stalking as offenses that require the court to order that the offender have no contact with the victim for the duration of the imposed sentence.

§ 784.046 is amended to require law enforcement officers, when investigating allegations of dating violence, to help the victim obtain medical treatment, if required; advise the victim about available domestic violence services; give the victim immediate notice of her or his legal rights and remedies; and make a written police report, regardless of whether an arrest is made, that clearly indicates that the alleged offense was an incident of dating violence. This amendment also allows law enforcement officers to make an arrest based upon probable cause that an act of dating violence has been committed within the jurisdiction.

§ 784.046 is amended to make violating a pretrial release condition a first degree misdemeanor when the original arrest was for dating violence; the offender must be held in custody until the first court appearance.

§ 901.15 is amended to allow law enforcement officers to arrest a person without a warrant when there is probable cause to believe the person committed an act of dating violence.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 39.504 is amended to allow the court, upon request, to issue an injunction to protect a child from domestic violence at any time after a protective investigation by the Department of Children and Family Services has been initiated. The injunction may include conditions that: (1) order the offender to refrain from further acts of domestic violence; (2) award the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling to the caregiver; (3) exclude the offender from the residence of the caregiver; (4) award temporary custody of the child to the caregiver; or (5) establish temporary support for the child.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 60 days.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§§ 586-4 and 586-11 are amended to allow courts to prohibit, as a condition of probation, contact with the protected party through the establishment of court-defined geographic exclusion zones, including the areas in and around the protected party's residence, place of employment, or school, and to order that the defendant wear a Global Positioning System tracking device designed to transmit and record the defendant's location. These statutes are further amended to require that the defendant's location data be immediately transmitted to the protected party when the defendant enters a court-defined geographic-exclusion zone.

§ 711 is added to create the crime of harassment by impersonation, which is when a person poses as another person, without consent, and transmits personal information to a third party with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm the person. Personal information is defined as a name, address, telephone number, or email address. Harassment by impersonation is a misdemeanor.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

§ 571-46 is amended to require courts to define the requirements to be a court-appointed custody evaluator and the standards of practice, ethics, policies, and procedures required of these professionals. This statute is also amended to require the courts to define the powers of the court over child custody evaluators to effectuate the best interests of a child.

§ 571-46 is amended to exempt from consideration, in cases where the court has determined that family violence has been committed, the following best interest of the child factors: each parent's cooperation in developing and implementing a plan to meet the child's ongoing needs and each parent's actions demonstrating that they allow the child to maintain family connections through events and

activities. In addition, this statute is amended to add the following best interest of the child factor: a parent's willful misuse of the protection from abuse process in order to gain a tactical advantage in a custody proceeding; however, when taken alone, the voluntary dismissal of a petition for protection from abuse shall not be treated as prima facie evidence that a willful misuse of the protection from abuse process has occurred.*

*Some domestic violence experts recommend working within the parameters of existing law rather than enacting new legislation that, when implemented, may have dangerous unintended consequences and ramifications for domestic violence victims and their children



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and typically ends in May.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

725 § 5/110-5 is amended to require the court to order a person charged with violating a protection order to undergo a risk assessment evaluation at an approved partner abuse intervention program. Based upon the results of the risk assessment and other circumstances of the violation, the court may order that the person be placed under electronic surveillance as a condition of bail.

730 § 5/3-3-7 is amended to require, as a condition of every parole and mandatory release, that a person convicted of a violation of a protection order be placed under electronic surveillance.

730 § 5/3-6-3 is amended to require, as a condition of early release for persons convicted of a violation of a protection order, that said person be placed under electronic surveillance. The amendment also allows courts to place offenders under electronic surveillance who are sentenced to probation or conditional discharge for a violation of a protection order.

730 § 5/5-9-1.16 is created to require that an additional fine be added to every penalty imposed when imposing a sentence for a violation of a protection order. Said fine shall be imposed upon a plea of guilty or a finding of guilty resulting in a judgment of conviction and shall not be less than \$200. The money from this additional fine will be used to implement the Domestic Violence Surveillance Program.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

725 § 5/112A-14 and 750 § 60/214 are amended to allow the court to order the respondent, as a condition of a protection order, to undergo an assessment by an approved partner abuse intervention program and to follow all recommended treatment.

750 § 60/222 is amended to require the clerk of the circuit court, upon the request of the petitioner, to send a certified copy of the protection order to any specified health care facility or practitioner. This statute is also amended to prohibit health care facilities and practitioners, upon receipt of a certified copy of a protection order that prohibits respondent's access to records, from allowing a respondent access to the records of any child who is a protected person under the protection order or releasing information in those records to the respondent. An exception to this prohibition is made when the protection order has expired or the respondent shows a certified copy of the court order vacating the corresponding protection order that was sent to the health care facility or practitioner.

725 § 5/112A-20 and 750 § 60/220 are amended to allow the court to grant an extension of a plenary protection order where good cause is shown and that remains in effect until the protection order is vacated or modified.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

750 § 5/602.1 is amended to set forth, under the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act, that a parent who is a named respondent in a protection order shall not have access to the health care records of a child who is a protected person under that protection order.

MISCELLANEOUS:

730 § 5/5-8A-7 is created to require that the best available global positioning technology to track domestic violence offenders be used and to set forth the criteria for the use of such technology, including: the immediate notification of law enforcement or other monitors of any breach; the capability to notify victims in near-real time of any breach; the capability for monitors to speak to offenders through a cell phone implanted in the device; and an alarm that can be activated to warn potential victims of the offender's presence



in a forbidden zone. This section is known as the Domestic Violence Surveillance Program.

730 § 110/115 is amended to give the Division of Probation Services the authority to develop standards to implement the Domestic Violence Surveillance Program, including procurement of equipment and other services necessary to implement the program and development of uniform standards for delivery of the program through court probation departments.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and generally ends by April 29 in odd-numbered years and by March 14 in even-numbered years.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 35-37-6-1 is amended to expand the definition of “confidential communication” between a domestic violence victim and advocate by including communications exchanged or disclosed in a support group in which the victim is or was a participant and communications exchanged in the presence of third parties who facilitate or facilitated communications between a victim and advocate. This statute is also amended to clarify the definition of “communication,” which is verbal or written and includes advice, notes, reports, statistical data, memoranda, working papers, reports, and personally identifying information produced in the course of advocating for the victim.

§ 35-37-6-1.5 is added to define “confidential information,” which includes personally identifying information, descriptions of physical appearance, the case file, and the case history of a person who seeks, receives, or has received services from a victim advocate. It also sets forth a list of what the term does not include.

§ 35-37-6-2.5 is added to define “personally identifying information,” which is information that identifies a victim or the location where domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and includes the victim’s name, mailing and physical address, email address, internet protocol address, telephone and facsimile numbers, social security number, date of birth, racial or ethnic background, religious affiliations, or any other information that, in combination with other non-personally identifying information, would identify an individual.

§ 35-37-6-3 is amended to clarify the definition of “victim” as an individual against whom an act of domestic or family violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human and sexual trafficking, or

stalking is committed; or, an individual who is not accused of committing these enumerated acts and who is a member of the victim's family.

§ 35-37-6-3.5 is added to define "victim advocate," which is an individual employed or appointed or who volunteers for a victim services provider, domestic violence program, rape crisis center, battered women's shelter, transitional housing program, or a program which, as one of its primary purposes, provides services to a victim. It also sets forth a list of what the term does not include.

§ 35-37-6-5 is amended to clarify the definition of "victim service provider," which was previously termed "victim counseling center." It defines "victim service provider" as a public agency that is not affiliated with a law enforcement agency and that serves individuals against whom an act of domestic or family violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human and sexual trafficking, or stalking is committed.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 35-33-8-3.2 is amended to allow the court to order defendants who have not been released from lawful detention to refrain from any direct or indirect contact with an individual where there has been a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant poses a risk of physical danger to the individual, another person, or the community.

§ 35-38-1-30 is added to allow the court, at sentencing, to require as a condition of a person's executed sentence, that the person refrain from any direct or indirect contact with an individual.

§ 35-33-1-1.7 is added to require a law enforcement agency that has custody of a person arrested for a crime of domestic violence to keep that person in custody for at least eight hours from the time of the arrest and to prohibit the law enforcement agency from releasing said person on bail during this eight-hour period.

§ 35-33-8-6.5 is added to prohibit the courts from releasing a per-

son arrested for a crime of domestic violence on bail until at least eight hours from the time of the person's arrest.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 29-1-2-1 is amended to prohibit a parent who is convicted of causing the death of another parent by murder, voluntary manslaughter, or another criminal act from receiving an intestate share of the estate of the parent's minor or adult child.

§ 27-8-5-22 is amended to prohibit a parent who is convicted of causing the death of another parent by murder, voluntary manslaughter, or another criminal act from receiving a refund of accident and sickness insurance premiums paid by the child.

§§ 4-33-5-1.5 is amended and 4-35-10-3 is added to make confidential certain information gathered as part of an application for an occupational license, including the home telephone number of a child and any information concerning a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

§ 35-37-6-1 et al. are amended to expand and clarify the domestic violence victim/advocate confidentiality law.

§35-37-6-9 is amended to relieve a victim advocate or service provider from being compelled to disclose confidential communications or information in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless the victim specifically consents to the disclosure in a written authorization that contains the date on which the consent expires. This statute is also amended to prohibit a victim advocate or service provider from requiring a victim to disclose confidential communications or information as a condition of receiving services. Finally, this statute is amended to set forth the factors required to consent to the disclosure of information on behalf of a child and to prohibit consent by a custodial parent, custodian, guardian, or guardian ad litem of a victim if said person has committed or is alleged to have committed an offense against the victim.

§ 35-37-6-14 is added to set forth that a victim does not waive any privileges or confidentiality protections when the victim testifies about underlying acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or reveals the use or attempted use of services of a victim advocate or service provider.

§ 35-37-6-15 is added to set forth that partial disclosure of a confidential communication does not waive any privilege concerning the remainder of the confidential communication.

§ 35-37-6-16 is added to set forth that no negative inferences or presumptions are raised if a victim or victim advocate refuses to testify or disclose information because of a privilege under this chapter.

§ 35-37-6-17 is added to allow a victim service provider to disclose information in the aggregate, provided this information does not identify a victim, regarding services and demographic information to comply with federal or state data collection requirements.

§ 25-23.6-8-1.5 is added to require than an applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist associate furnish satisfactory evidence that, among other things, the applicant does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the applicant's ability to practice competently.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 915.23 is amended to extend employment protection to employees who are a plaintiff, defendant, or witness in a domestic abuse civil proceeding.

KENTUCKY



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 60 days in even-numbered years and to 30 days in odd-numbered years.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 525.135 of the Penal Code is amended to make it a class A misdemeanor for the first offense of torturing or killing a dog or cat; to make it a class D felony where a dog or cat dies as a result of the torture; and to make it a class D felony for each subsequent offense if the dog or cat suffers physical injury.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in March in even-numbered years and is limited to 60 days; in odd-numbered years, the session starts in April and is limited to 45 days.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 46:2135 and Children's Code Article 1569 are amended to allow courts, in a temporary restraining order, to award or restore possession to the petitioner of all separate and personal property, including telephones or other communication equipment, social security cards, birth certificates, and automobiles; to grant the petitioner the exclusive care, possession, or control of any household pets; and to order that the defendant refrain from harassing, interfering with, abusing, or injuring any household pets.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:

§ 46:2136 and Children's Code Article 1570 are amended to allow courts to order a medical evaluation of the defendant or abused person or both to determine whether an order of counseling or other medical treatment is appropriate in a protective order. Said evaluation is to be conducted by an independent court-appointed evaluator who qualifies as an expert in the field of domestic abuse and who must issue a report to the court. When the defendant and the abused person are both ordered to obtain a medical evaluation, the court is required to appoint two separate evaluators.*

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 46:2136.1 and Children's Code Article 1570.1 are amended to expand the court costs to be paid by the abuser to include the costs of enforcement, modification proceedings, and appeals in maintaining or defending any proceeding concerning domestic abuse assistance.

*Some domestic violence experts recommend working within the parameters of existing law rather than enacting new legislation that, when implemented, may have dangerous unintended consequences and ramifications for domestic violence victims and their children.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The first session starts in December of a general election year and typically ends in June; the second session starts in January of even-numbered years and ends in April.

DEFINITIONS:

Title 17-A § 210-A is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to define “course of conduct” as two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the actor, by any action, method, device, or means, directly or indirectly follows, monitors, tracks, observes, surveils, threatens, harasses, or communicates to or about a person or interferes with a person’s property. “Course of conduct” also includes threats implied by way of conduct.

Title 17-A § 210-A is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to expand the definition of “close relation” to include a current or former spouse or domestic partner, grandparent, or any person with a significant personal or professional relationship.

Title 17-A § 210-A is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to add a definition of “emotional abuse” that means mental or emotional suffering of a person being stalked as evidenced by anxiety, fear, torment, or apprehension that may or may not result in a physical manifestation of emotional distress or a mental health diagnosis.

Title 17-A § 210-A is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to add a definition for “serious inconvenience,” which means that a person significantly modifies actions or routines in an attempt to avoid the actor or because of the actor’s course of conduct and includes, but is not limited to, changing a phone number or email address, moving, changing daily routines, changing routines to and from work, changing employment or work schedule, or losing time from work.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

Title 17-A § 210-A is amended to expand the crime of stalking to include intentional and knowing engagement in a course of con-

duct directed at or concerning a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to suffer serious inconvenience or emotional distress, to fear bodily injury to a close relation, to fear the death of a close relation, to fear damage or destruction to or tampering with property, or to fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in the possession and control of that specific person.

Title 17-A § 1252 is amended to require that courts, under certain circumstances, assign special weight to the commission of a crime of stalking in determining the basic sentence. This statute is further amended to require courts to assign special weight to any subjective victim impact caused by the stalking in determining the maximum period of incarceration.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Title 7 § 4018 is amended to require veterinarians to report to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources cases of suspected aggravated animal cruelty, including the killing or torturing of animals to frighten or intimidate a person.

Resolution Number 196 was signed to direct the Department of Public Safety to undertake a comprehensive review of the measures currently in place to support and protect victims and potential victims of domestic violence; to review the effectiveness of the provisions of the Maine Criminal Code related to domestic violence; to secure outside funding and resources to undertake this review; and to submit a report of its findings, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over the criminal and public safety matters no later than December 10, 2008.

Title 22 § 3477 and Title 22 § 4011-A are amended to add, to both the child protective unit and the adult protective unit within the Department of Health and Human Services, family or domestic violence advocates to the list of mandated reporters of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 90 days.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 4-506 is amended to require the court to issue a new, final protective order against an individual where the individual was previously a respondent against whom a final protective order was issued, was convicted, and served a term of imprisonment of at least five years for the act of abuse that led to the issuance of the final protective order, and the victim of the abuse was the victim in the original final order and requests the issuance of a new final protective order. The court is limited to ordering only the relief granted in the original protective order. A final protective order issued under this subsection is permanent, unless terminated at the request of the victim.

§ 4-506 is amended to give the court the authority to order a law enforcement officer to use all reasonable and necessary force to return a minor child to the custodial parent at the time of service or as soon as possible after the entry of the final protective order, where the court awards temporary custody of the child.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January and is limited to 120 days.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 595.02 is amended to define “domestic abuse advocate” as an employee or supervised volunteer from a community-based battered women’s shelter and domestic abuse program that is eligible to receive grants under an enumerated statute; who provides information, advocacy, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, or support to victims; and who is not employed by or under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency, prosecutor’s office, or by a city, county, or state agency.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 518B.01 is amended to allow the court, in orders of protection, to order that the abusing party have no contact with the petitioner whether in person, by telephone, mail, email, through a third party, or by any other means. The relief granted is now effective for two years, rather than one year.

§§ 518B.01 and 609.78 are amended to allow the court to grant relief, in an order of protection or restraining order, for up to 50 years where the court finds the respondent violated a prior or existing order for protection on two or more occasions or the petitioner has had two or more orders for protection in effect against the same respondent. These statutes are further amended to require that the order contain a conspicuous notice that the respondent must wait five years to seek modification of the order; to allow the respondent to request that the order be vacated or modified, where the order has been in effect for at least five years and the respondent has not violated the order during that time period; and to allow a hearing on said request.

§ 518B.01 is amended to allow the court, in ex parte orders for protection, to order that the abusing party have no contact with the petitioner whether in person, by telephone, mail, email, through electronic devices, or through a third party.



§ 609.78 is amended to require, in a petition for relief from harassment, that the petitioner state whether there has been a previous restraining order in effect against the respondent.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 595.02 is amended to limit the disclosure of any opinion or information received from or about a victim by domestic violence advocates without the victim's consent.



MISSISSIPPI

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 90 days, except during the first year of a gubernatorial administration when the session is limited to 125 days. (Note: The 2008 session was 90 days.)

DEFINITIONS:

§ 93-21-3 is amended to clarify the definition of “abuse” by replacing the phrase “family or household members” with spouses, former spouses, persons living as spouses or who formerly lived as spouses, persons having a child or children in common, other individuals related by consanguinity or affinity who reside together or who formerly resided together, or between individuals who had a former dating relationship.

§ 93-21-3 is amended to clarify the definition of “dating relationship” as a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature between two individuals, which is determined by the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the two individuals involved. It excludes casual relationships or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

§ 99-3-7 is amended to define the term “principal aggressor” as the party who poses the most serious, ongoing threat or who is the most significant aggressor.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 97-3-7 is amended to make it a crime of simple or aggravated domestic violence to commit simple or aggravated assault against a person living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse with the defendant, other persons related by consanguinity or affinity who reside with or formerly resided with the defendant, and former dating partners.

§ 99-3-7 is amended to require law enforcement officers to document findings that more than one principal aggressor was involved and to give law enforcement officers the authority to make an arrest upon probable cause to believe the person has knowingly violated provisions of a restraining order entered by a foreign court that requires the person to refrain from further abuse or threats of abuse.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 99-47-1 is created to establish, in the Office of the Attorney General, an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



MISSOURI

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and ends by May 30.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 565.225 is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to expand the definition of “credible threat” to include threats that cause a person to fear for the safety of his or her family, household members, domestic animals, or livestock.

§ 565.225 is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to clarify the definition of “course of conduct” to include two or more acts of communication by any means.

§ 565.225 is amended, for the purposes of the stalking laws, to expand the definition of “harass” to include conduct that would cause a reasonable person under the circumstances to be frightened, intimidated, or emotionally distressed.

§ 556.061, of the Criminal Code, is amended to expand the definition of “dangerous felony” to include parental kidnapping committed by detaining or concealing the whereabouts of a child for 120 days or more.*

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 565.090 is amended to expand the crime of harassment to include:

- knowingly frightening, intimidating, or causing emotional distress to another person by any electronic communication;
- knowingly communicating with another person, who is or purports to be, seven years of age or younger and, in so doing, recklessly frightens, intimidates, or causes emotional distress to such person;
- knowingly making repeated, unwanted communication to another person; and

- engaging, without good cause, in any other act with the purpose of frightening, intimidating, or causing emotional distress to another person and such person's response to the act is reasonable considering the person's age.

This statute is further amended to make harassment a class D felony when it is committed by a person 21 years old or older against a person 17 years old or younger or the alleged perpetrator has previously pleaded guilty to or has been found guilty of a violation of this section.

§ 565.255 is amended to expand the crime of aggravated stalking to include actions constituting a course of conduct that harasses another person and the actions violate an order of protection; the actions violate a condition of parole, probation, pretrial release, or release on bond pending appeal; the victim is 17 years of age or younger and the perpetrator is 21 years of age or older; or the perpetrator previously pleaded guilty to or was found guilty of domestic assault, violating an order of protection, or any other crime where the other person was the victim.

§ 565.225 is amended to make stalking a class D felony and aggravated stalking a class C felony where the person has previously pleaded guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of this section or of any offense committed in violation of any county or municipal ordinance in any state or any state, federal, or military law, which, if committed in Missouri, would be chargeable or indictable as a violation of any offense listed in this section.

§ 565.153 is amended to make parental kidnapping a class C felony when a parent detains or conceals the whereabouts of a child for more than 60 days, but fewer than 120 days. This amendment also makes it a class B felony when a parent detains or conceals the whereabouts of a child for 120 days or more.*

§ 544.470 is amended to create a presumption that, in a case where a judge reasonably believes a person is unlawfully present in the United States, releasing said person under any bail conditions will not reasonably assure the person's appearance in court. As such, the person shall be committed to jail. A person can rebut this presumption by providing verification of his or her lawful presence in the United States.*

§ 577.900 is added to require that, within 48 hours of arrest, law enforcement verify the nationality or lawful immigration status of any person charged and confined to jail if law enforcement cannot make this determination from the documents in the possession of said person. Verification is made through a query to the United States Department of Home Land Security (DHLS) and said person shall be reported to DHLS if he or she is present in the United States unlawfully.

§ 221.515 is amended to allow jailers to serve civil process and arrest warrants to those who are incarcerated.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 160.261 is amended to require school administrators to report harassment and stalking committed on school grounds to law enforcement authorities.

§ 208.009 is amended to restrict those unlawfully present in the United States from receiving public benefits. However, the provisions of this section are not applicable to non-profit organizations and do not prohibit said organizations from providing aid or rendering emergency medical care, prenatal care, services offering alternatives to abortion, emergency assistance, or legal assistance to any person.

*Some domestic violence experts recommend working within the parameters of existing law rather than enacting new legislation that, when implemented, may have dangerous unintended consequences and ramifications for domestic violence victims and their children.

NEW JERSEY



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January of even-numbered years.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 46:8-9.4 et seq. was enacted as the New Jersey Safe Housing Act. This act allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence to terminate a residential lease; requires tenants to provide written notice and documentation of the domestic violence to the landlord; prohibits landlords from disclosing the information provided by tenants that documents the domestic violence; and sets forth procedures for tenants to recover the security deposit. This act does not apply to leases for the seasonal use or rental of real property.



NEW MEXICO

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 60 days in odd-numbered years and to 30 days in even-numbered years.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 31-12-12 is amended to expand the definition of “domestic violence offender,” for the purposes of the Domestic Violence Offender Treatment and Intervention Fund section, to include a person referred to a domestic violence offender program or intervention program by a judge, a domestic violence special commissioner, or by the parole board or a person who voluntarily participates in a domestic violence offender program or intervention program.

§ 30-3-11 is amended to add a dating or intimate relationship to the definition of “continuing personal relationship,” and to expand the definition of “household members” to include persons involved in a continuing personal relationship.

§ 40-13-2 is amended to expand the definition of “domestic abuse” to include an incident of stalking or sexual assault whether committed by a household member or not and to exclude the use of force in self-defense or the defense of another; to add a definition for “mutual order of protection,” which means an order of protection that includes provisions that protect both parties; to add a definition for “protected party,” which means a person protected by an order of protection; and to add a definition for “restrained party,” which means a person who is restrained by an order of protection.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§§ 30-3-15 and 30-3-16 are amended to clarify that a sentence imposed for violating a condition of probation shall not exceed 364 days, with the combined period of incarceration and probation not to exceed two years.

§ 30-3-17 is created to make three offenses of battery or aggravated battery against a household member a fourth degree felony and to make four or more offenses of battery or aggravated battery against a household member a third degree felony.

§ 30-1-15 is amended to specify that a victim of domestic violence is not required to bear the cost of the prosecution of a misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the filing of a warrant or witness subpoena, or the filing or registration of a protection order. It also specifies that these cost exemptions are applicable to violations of protection orders that are issued under the Family Violence Protection Act or are entitled to full faith and credit.

§ 40-13-3.1 is amended to clarify that an alleged victim of domestic violence is not required to bear the cost of the prosecution of a misdemeanor or felony offense arising out of an incident of domestic abuse, including costs associated with filing a criminal charge against the alleged perpetrator of the abuse; the filing of a warrant or witness subpoena; the filing, issuance, or service of a petition for an order of protection; and the cost of obtaining of law enforcement reports relating to the alleged abuse or pattern of abuse. This statute is also amended to forbid a law enforcement officer from charging a witness fee for appearing at a hearing pursuant to the Family Violence Prevention Act.

§ 40-13-7 is amended to require law enforcement officers, when arresting an alleged perpetrator, to, when appropriate, indicate in the officer's written statement that the party arrested was the predominant aggressor.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 40-13-4 is amended to give the court authority to award temporary custody and visitation of children in a temporary order of protection and to require the court to dismiss petitions where the court finds the perpetrator is not a household member. Petitions alleging stalking or sexual assault are exempted from this dismissal mandate.

§ 40-13-5 is amended to clarify that a mutual order of protection can only be issued when both parties have petitioned the court and the court makes detailed findings of fact indicating that both parties acted primarily as aggressors and that neither party acted in self-defense. This statute is also amended to clarify that an order of protection can only be issued if a petition or counter petition has been filed.

§ 40-13-12 is added to the Family Violence Prevention Act to prohibit information from being made available on the Internet that would likely reveal the identity or location of a party protected under an order of protection.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:

§ 31-12-12 is amended to change the name of the “Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Fund” to the “Domestic Violence Offender Treatment and Intervention Fund.”

MISCELLANEOUS:

Governor Bill Richardson signed an Executive Order requiring all state agencies to establish workplace policies to address domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking by July 1, 2009.

NEW YORK



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January.

DEFINITIONS:

§§ 812 of the Family Court Act and 530.11 of the Criminal Procedure Law are amended to expand the definition of “members of the same family or household” to include persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time. These statutes are also amended to set forth factors the court can consider to determine whether a relationship is an “intimate relationship.”

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 65.10 of the Penal Law is amended to allow the court, as a condition of the sentence, to order a defendant to reimburse the consumer credit reporting agency for the amount of the fee for a security freeze on a credit account or fees that could have been charged by such agency to a domestic violence victim.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§§ 446, 550, 551, 655, 656, 759, 841, 842, and 1056 of the Family Court Act and 530.11 of the Criminal Procedure Law are amended to give, among others, teens, dating partners, and same sex partners the right to obtain orders of protection.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

§ 240 of the Domestic Relations Law is amended to provide that, in custody proceedings, a parent will not be denied custody, visitation, or contact with the child if the parent acts lawfully to protect or seek treatment for the child when said acts are based upon a good faith allegation and a reasonable belief that the child is a victim of child abuse, child neglect, or the effects of domestic violence.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 398-e of the Social Services Law is amended to make those persons unlawfully present in the United States, including nonqualified persons, eligible for residential services for victims of domestic violence.

§ 380-t of the General Business Law is amended to prohibit consumer credit reporting agencies from advising a third party, in any manner, of the fact that the consumer requesting a security freeze on a credit account is alleging to be a victim of domestic violence or identity theft, without the written authorization of the consumer, and to prohibit consumer credit reporting agencies from charging a domestic violence victim a fee for a security freeze if the victim has submitted a valid domestic violence incident report form, a valid police report, a valid order of protection, or a signed affidavit from specific professionals set forth in this section.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 14-277.3A is added to recognize the dangerous nature of stalking and the strong connections between stalking and domestic violence; to expand the crime of stalking to include harassing another person on more than one occasion or engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person; to make a violation of this section a class A1 misdemeanor; to require supervised probation, in addition to any other punishment imposed by the court; and to make subsequent offenses a class F felony.

§ 50B-4.1 is amended to make violating a protection order a class H felony where the offender has previously been convicted of two or more offenses under this chapter.

§ 15A-831 is amended to require law enforcement officers to provide domestic violence victims with an information sheet that includes, among other things, legal aid services and domestic violence agencies and services.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 2919.27 is amended to allow the electronic monitoring for up to five years of a respondent who violates a protection order for stalking. This statute is also amended to require the court to order that the respondent pay the costs of installation of the electronic surveillance and monitoring, unless the respondent is found to be indigent.

§ 2943.033 is amended to bring Ohio into compliance with the Violence Against Women Act's requirement that judicial notification of firearms restrictions be given to domestic violence offenders.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 2903.214 is amended to:

- require that a petition for a protection order, which seeks to monitor a respondent electronically, include an allegation that the respondent engaged in conduct that would cause a reasonable person to believe that the health, welfare, or safety of the petitioner was at risk; a description of the nature and extent of that conduct; and an allegation that the respondent presents a continuing danger to the petitioner.
- allow the court, after a full hearing, to order a respondent to be electronically monitored in addition to any other relief granted to the petitioner.
- require the court to direct the sheriff's office or any other appropriate law enforcement agency to install the electronic monitoring device and to monitor the respondent.
- require the court to order that the respondent pay the cost of installation and monitoring, unless the respondent is determined to be indigent.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 2901.30 is amended to require law enforcement agencies to notify public and nonpublic schools, where a missing child is or was most recently enrolled, that the child is the subject of a missing child report.

§ 3313.672 is amended to require schools that receive notification that a child is the subject of a missing child report to mark the child's records to indicate that they are the records of a missing child and, upon any request for said missing child's records, to report the request immediately to the law enforcement agency that notified the school that the child is missing.

§ 2743.191 is amended to allow reparation funds to be used, pursuant to an electronic monitoring order, for the costs of installation and monitoring of an electronic monitoring device for a respondent who is determined to be indigent.



OKLAHOMA

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in February and ends no later than May.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 60.6 of Title 22 is amended to allow a court to order, as a condition of sentencing, that the defendant use an active, real-time, 24-hour Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring device and that the defendant pay the costs and expenses related to the GPS monitoring.

§1105.3 of Title 22 is amended to allow a court to order, as a condition of pretrial release, that a defendant use an active, real-time, 24-hour Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring device and that the defendant pay the costs and expenses related to the GPS monitoring.

§§ 644 of Title 21 and 60.6 of Title 22 are amended to allow a court to suspend the sentencing of a defendant until said defendant has presented proof to the court of enrollment in a program for treatment for domestic abuse by an individual licensed practitioner or a certified domestic abuse treatment program and proof of attendance at weekly sessions. Proof of enrollment must be presented to the court within 120 days after the defendant is ordered to such treatment. Upon receiving proof of enrollment, the court can complete sentencing and schedule reviews.

§ 644 of Title 10 is amended to make it domestic abuse against a pregnant woman a misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in county jail and to make second or subsequent offenses a felony, which is punishable by imprisonment for a minimum of 10 years. This statute is further amended to make domestic abuse against a pregnant woman that causes a miscarriage or injury to the unborn child a felony, which is punishable by a minimum of 20 years in prison.

§ 644 of Title 22 is amended to make three unexcused absences in succession or seven unexcused absences in a 52-week period from any court-ordered domestic abuse counseling or treatment program prima facie evidence of the violation of the conditions of probation and to allow the district attorney to seek acceleration or revocation of any probation entered by the court in said cases. This statute is further amended to make any plea or finding of guilty to certain enumerated domestic abuse offenses constitute a conviction for the purpose of this act or any other criminal statute under which the existence of a prior conviction is relevant.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 60.17 of Title 22 is amended to allow a court to order, in conjunction with any protective order or restraining order, that the defendant use an active, real-time, 24-hour Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring device and that the defendant pay costs and expenses related to the GPS monitoring. To make this order, the court must find that the defendant has a history which demonstrates an intent or a likelihood to commit violence against the victim.

§ 60.2 of title 22 is amended to allow a party's petition for a protection order to be heard in that party's divorce or separation action if there is no established protection order docket in the court hearing the divorce or separation action or the court finds, in the interest of judicial economy, that both actions may be heard together. However, the petition for the protection order must remain a separate action and a separate order must be entered in the protection order action. This statute is further amended to allow a protection order to be dismissed in favor of a restraining order in the divorce or separation action where the court finds, upon a hearing, that such dismissal is in the best interests of the parties and does not compromise the safety of any petitioner.

§§ 60.21 through 60.29 are added to Title 22 to create and establish the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§§ 1150.2 of Title 10 and 1601 of Title 22 are amended to allow the Child Death Review Board (CDRB) to conduct joint reviews with the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB) on domestic violence cases involving a child death or near-death incident. When conducting a joint review, the CDRB must request and obtain all records in the possession of the DVFRB.

§ 60.14 of Title 22 is amended to transfer the Address Confidentiality Program from the Secretary of State to the Attorney General; to allow an adult or minor child who resides with a program applicant to apply for the address confidentiality program for the purpose of ensuring the applicant's safety; and to prohibit state or local agency employees from disclosing a program participant's actual address unless disclosure is permitted by law.

PENNSYLVANIA



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Philadelphia Ordinance No. 080468-A, “Entitlement to Leave Due to Domestic or Sexual Violence,” was enacted to provide employees with unpaid leave from work to address domestic or sexual violence. It requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide up to eight weeks of unpaid leave; requires employers with fewer than 50 employees to provide up to four weeks of unpaid leave; and allows employees who take this leave to retain their position and benefits, including health benefits. This ordinance also applies to victims of abuse in same-sex relationships.



RHODE ISLAND

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 11-52-4.2 is amended to prohibit cyber-stalking and cyber-harassment, which may include communications by electronic devices other than a computer. Said crime is a misdemeanor; however, second or subsequent offenses are a felony.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§§ 16-85-1 and 16-85-2 are added as the Lindsay Ann Burke Act. This act requires each school district to establish a policy for responding to dating violence and to provide dating violence education on preventing and addressing incidents of dating violence to students, parents, staff, faculty, and administrators.

§ 16-21-30 is added to the Health and Safety of Pupils chapter and requires each school district to establish a policy to address incidents of dating violence that must include a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated, and to establish reporting, responding, and discipline procedures. This statute also requires dating violence training for administrators, teachers, nurses, and mental health staff at the middle and high school levels that includes basic education on the principles of dating violence, warning signs, and the school district's dating violence policy.

§ 16-22-24 is added to the Curriculum chapter, which requires each school district to incorporate age-appropriate dating violence education into the annual health curriculum framework for students in grades 7 through 12. Said education shall include defining dating violence, recognizing the warning signs of dating violence, and identifying characteristics of healthy relationships.

SOUTH CAROLINA



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January and ends in June.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 16-25-20 is amended to allow law enforcement to seek enhanced penalties for a domestic violence perpetrator who has been convicted of domestic violence in another state.

§§ 16-25-125 is added and 16-3-1770 is amended to create the offense of trespass upon the grounds or structure of a domestic violence shelter and makes a violation of these sections a misdemeanor. However, when the person is in possession of a dangerous weapon at the time of the trespass, it is a felony.

§ 16-25-70 is amended to allow a law enforcement officer to arrest a person at the person's place of residence, with or without a warrant, if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person is committing or has just committed trespass upon the grounds or structure of a domestic violence shelter, even if the act did not take place in the presence of the officer.

§ 16-25-120 is amended to require courts to give judicial written notice to offenders who are released pending trial that it is unlawful for a person charged with or convicted of domestic violence, who is subject to an order of protection or restraining order, to trespass upon the grounds or structure of a domestic violence shelter. It also requires the court to give judicial written notice of penalties to the defendant.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 20-4-60 is amended to require orders of protection to contain language notifying the respondent about the crime of trespassing upon the grounds or structure of a domestic violence shelter and the penalties for said crime.



SOUTH DAKOTA

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 40 days in odd-numbered years and to 35 days in even-numbered years.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 25-10-5 is amended to extend the period of time a protection order can remain in effect to five years and to require the abusing party to attend parenting classes that are approved or provided by the Department of Social Services.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

§ 25-4-45.5 is amended to add that a history of domestic abuse must be considered in awarding child custody and adds said history to the factors for courts to consider when determining the applicability of the rebuttable presumption that awarding custody to the abusive parent is not in the best interest of the child .

§ 25-4-45.7 is added to allow a court to consider the issuance of a protection order against a parent or any arrest report of a parent for domestic abuse in determining whether a history of domestic abuse exists.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session starts in January and is limited to 90 days.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 39-13-111 is amended to expand the definition of “domestic abuse victim” to include adults or minors who live together or have lived together and adults or minors who are dating, have dated, or who have or had a sexual relationship.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 39-17-1307 is amended to expand the class E felony of unlawful possession of a weapon to include a person possessing a handgun who has been convicted of any felony.

§ 39-17-308 is amended to expand the crime of harassment to include text messages, emails, and facsimile transmissions.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 36-3-617 is amended to exempt petitioners from paying the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, service, appeal, or enforcement of an ex parte order of protection, order of protection, or petition for either such order whether issued inside or outside the state. This includes any court costs, filing fees, litigation taxes, or any other associated costs. In addition, this statute is amended to require the respondent to pay all court costs, filing fees, litigation taxes, and attorney fees where the court, after a hearing, issues or extends an order of protection.

§ 39-13-113 is amended to require that courts make specific findings of fact that a person committed domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking when determining if that person violated an order of protection or restraining order.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

§ 36-4-131 is amended to require divorcing parties to participate in mediation; however, the court may waive this requirement in domestic violence cases.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§§ 40-38-401 through 40-38-405 are enacted to create the Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy (Academy) to improve services to victims of all types of crimes by making available a comprehensive, basic-level victim assistance curriculum and training program to victim service providers and allied professionals. The Academy is attached to the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 45 days.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 76-5-106.5 is amended to define “course of conduct,” for purposes of the stalking statutes, to mean two or more acts directed at or toward a specific person, including direct, indirect, or third-party acts; acts using the computer, Internet, text messaging, or any other electronic means; and placing at or delivering objects to a person’s place of employment.

§ 76-5-106.5 is amended to add a definition of “emotional distress,” to the stalking statutes, to mean significant mental or psychological suffering, whether or not medical or other professional treatment or counseling is required.

§ 76-5-106.5 is amended to add a definition of “text messaging,” to the stalking statutes, to mean electronic text or image communication from a telephone or computer sent to another person’s telephone or computer.

§ 76-9-301.7 is amended to clarify the definition of “conviction,” for purposes of enhancing the penalty for cruelty to animals, to mean a plea of guilty or no contest that is held in abeyance regardless of whether the charge was, or is, subsequently reduced or dismissed in accordance with the plea abeyance agreement. This amendment excludes the penalty enhancements for a conviction of intentionally or knowingly torturing a companion animal because this crime is already a felony.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 77-36-2.2 is amended to require law enforcement officers responding to a complaint for domestic violence to report, as part of the incident report or on a separate form, the marital status of the parties involved; the social, familial, or legal relationship of the suspect to the victim; and whether or not an arrest was made.

These reports are required on a monthly basis. The information is required to be reported as numerical data that contains no personal identifiers.

§ 76-5-106.5 is amended to clarify that the crime of stalking is committed when a person engages in a course of conduct that causes a reasonable person to fear for the person's own safety or the safety of a third person or to suffer other emotional distress; to make stalking a third degree felony if the offender has been or is, at the time of the offense, a cohabitant of the victim; and to make stalking a second degree felony if the offender has been convicted of certain previous stalking offenses.

§ 76-9-301 is amended to define the terms "abandon," "animal," "necessary food, water, care and shelter," and "torture" for the purpose of the crime of cruelty to animals; to make it a third degree felony to torture, intentionally or knowingly, a companion animal; and to exempt from civil liability a veterinarian who reports a crime of cruelty to animals to law enforcement.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 78B-7-106 is amended to allow a court to appoint a guardian ad litem if it appears from a petition for or modification of an order of protection that domestic violence or abuse has occurred.

§ 78B-7-107 is amended to allow ex parte protective orders to be extended beyond 20 days only when a petitioner cannot be present at the hearing, the respondent has not been served, the respondent had an opportunity to present a defense at the hearing, the respondent requests that the ex parte order be extended, or exigent circumstances exist. However, an ex parte order cannot be extended beyond 180 days from the date of its initial issuance.

§ 78B-7-115 is amended to allow dismissal of a protective order that has been in effect for at least two years if the court determines that the petitioner no longer has a reasonable fear of future abuse and

to require that the petitioner be given notice of a motion to dismiss by personal service. In making this determination, the court must consider:

- whether the respondent has complied with treatment recommendations;
- whether the respondent ever violated the protective order;
- any claims of harassment, abuse, or violence by either party during the two years;
- any counseling or therapy undertaken by either party;
- the impact on the well-being of any minor children of the parties; and
- any other relevant factors.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 77-38-4 is amended to give victims of crime the right to submit a written statement in any action on an appeal related to that crime.

§ 67-5-26 is enacted to create the Safety Net Initiative to address and prevent the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, incest, and child abuse relating to individuals in underserved communities and to implement strategies to increase awareness and to reduce risk factors in order to improve the safety and well-being of individuals in underserved communities.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 507 of title 28 is amended to expand the definition of “victim,” for purposes of notification of a parole eligibility hearing and eligibility to testify at said hearing. This expanded definition includes a victim of the crime for which the parole board is determining eligibility and a victim of a crime for which the inmate was convicted, other than the crime for which the parole board is determining eligibility.

§§ 4080f of title 8, 1973 of title 33, 1974 of title 33, and 1982 of title 33 are amended to expand the definition of “uninsured” to include individuals who lost health insurance as a result of domestic violence. This expansion allows victims of domestic violence to qualify immediately for state health insurance plans.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 1030 of title 13 is amended to enhance the penalty for second or subsequent offenses when an offender is convicted of violating an abuse prevention order and has been previously convicted of domestic assault or aggravated domestic assault.

§ 1042 of title 13 is amended to increase the penalty for domestic assault to imprisonment for not more than 18 months.

§ 1044 of title 13 is amended to expand the crime of second degree aggravated domestic assault to include (1) violations of a final abuse prevention order, an order against stalking or sexual assault, or an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult and (2) to include cases where a person commits the crime of domestic assault and has a prior conviction for violating an abuse prevention order within the last 10 years or has a prior conviction for domestic assault.

§ 1031 is added to title 13 to create the crime of interference with access to emergency services, which is when a person, during or

after the commission of a crime, prevents or attempts to prevent a person from seeking emergency medical or law enforcement assistance. This crime is punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

§ 1047 of title 13 is amended to allow the court to consider whether domestic assault was committed in the presence of a child when imposing a sentence for domestic assault.*

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 5134 of title 12 is amended to allow a court to order, in a temporary order against stalking or sexual assault, that the defendant stay away from the plaintiff, the plaintiff's children, or both and to allow the court to make any other order it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff, the plaintiff's children, or both.

§ 1030 of title 13 is amended to ensure orders against stalking and sexual assault issued by a court in any other state are afforded full faith and credit.

§ 1103 of title 15 is amended to allow a court to make orders, as it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff, the children, or both, when it finds the defendant has abused the plaintiff and there is a danger of further abuse or the defendant is incarcerated and has been convicted of domestic assault, aggravated domestic assault, stalking, or aggravated stalking.

§ 1105 of title 15 is amended to allow a court's verbal or written notice to a defendant, during an abuse prevention order hearing, that a temporary or final abuse prevention order has been issued to qualify as service of said order.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN:

§ 668a of title 15 is amended to allow a custodial parent to petition the court for an ex parte order suspending a noncustodial parent's visitation rights when: the custodial parent refuses to honor a noncustodial parent's visitation rights because there is a pattern

or incidence of domestic or sexual violence; there is a reasonable fear for the child's or custodial parent's safety; or there is a history of failure to honor the visitation schedule agreed to in the parent-child contact order. If the ex parte order is granted, a hearing must be held within 10 days from the issuance of the order.

§ 665a is added to title 15 to set forth conditions of visitation in domestic violence cases. This section allows a court to award visitation to a parent who has been convicted of domestic assault or aggravated domestic assault within the last 10 years or who was found to have committed abuse against a family or household member only if the court finds that adequate provision can be made for the safety of the child and victim parent. This section sets forth conditions on this type of visitation, which may include:

- exchanging the child in a protective setting;
- requiring supervised visitation;
- requiring the perpetrator to participate in an intervention program;
- requiring the perpetrator to abstain from alcohol or drug use during the visitation and 24 hours prior to the visit;
- requiring the perpetrator to pay the costs of supervised visitation;
- prohibiting overnight visits; and
- imposing any other condition the court deems necessary to provide for the safety of the child or victim parent or any other family or household member.

This section also gives the court the authority to order that the address of the child and victim parent be kept confidential of whether or not visitation is allowed.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT:

§ 2365 is added to title 20 to require law enforcement to receive at least eight hours of domestic violence training by 2010 and to attend domestic violence trainings every two years thereafter. Said trainings must be approved by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 5 of title 12 is amended to prohibit public access, via the Internet, to criminal case or family court case records.

§ 2056c of title 20 is amended to allow the Vermont Criminal Information Center to provide public access to criminal conviction records via the Internet.

§ 2063 of title 20 is amended to require a \$20 fee to obtain conviction records, which will be increased to \$30 in 2010.

§ 5356 of title 13 is amended to allow the Victims Compensation Program to reimburse health care facilities and health care providers at 70 percent of the billed charges for compensation claims for uninsured crime victims.

§ 5366 is added to title 13 to prohibit health care providers from submitting a crime victim's bill to debt collection until after the Victims Compensation Program has determined whether or not the bill qualifies for compensation.

§ 171 et al. are added to title 15 to establish the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence, which shall provide leadership for Vermont's effort to eradicate domestic violence.

*Some domestic violence experts recommend working within the parameters of existing law rather than enacting new legislation that, when implemented, may have dangerous unintended consequences and ramifications for domestic violence victims and their children.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 30 days in odd-numbered years and to 60 days in even-numbered years.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 19.2-368.2 is amended to expand the definition of “victim,” for the Victims Compensation Fund, to include people who have been stalked.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 19.2-120.1 is added to create a presumption against bail for any person unlawfully present in the United States who is charged with certain crimes. However, there is an exemption for first-time offenses of family abuse.

§ 19.2-120 is amended to create a presumption, subject to rebuttal, against admitting bail for any person who is arrested for a felony assault and battery against a family or household member.

§ 9.1-1300 is added to require the Virginia Department of State Police to establish arrest policies and procedures for domestic violence and family abuse cases, which shall, at a minimum, provide guidance on determining the predominant aggressor, completing an incident report, providing transportation to a victim, handling repeat offenders, knowing the legal and community resources available, and handling domestic violence incidents involving law enforcement officers.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§§ 16.1-253, 16.1-235.1, 16.1-235.4, 16.1-179.1, 19.2-152.8, and 19.2-152.1g are amended to require courts to enter protective orders for family abuse and stalking into the Virginia Criminal Information Network no later than the end of the business day on which the order was issued and to forward immediately said order to the law enforcement agency responsible for service of the order.

§§ 16.1-235.1 and 16.1-235.4 are amended to require courts to enter protective orders into the Virginia Criminal Information Network upon issuance and no later than the end of the business day on which the order was issued and to forward immediately said order to the law enforcement agency responsible for service of the order.

§§ 16.1-279.1 and 19.2-152.10 are amended to require protective orders to be issued for no longer than two years and, where no date is set, to expire two years after the order is issued.

§ 19.2-152.9 is amended to allow courts to extend protective orders for stalking and acts of violence protective orders for up to six months if the respondent failed to appear at the hearing because the respondent was not served.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 32.1-283.5 was enacted to establish the Adult Fatality Review Team to review deaths due to abuse or neglect.

§ 2.2-515.2 is amended to permit victims of domestic violence to apply for Virginia's address confidentiality program at programs that provide services to domestic violence victims; to require a sworn statement that applicants are not on active parole or probation supervision requirements under federal, state, or local law; to require a listing of minor children residing at the applicant's residence, including their date of birth and relationship to applicant; to allow a program participant's actual address to be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network; to allow the Attorney General to cancel a program participant's certification where the participant has been placed on parole or probation while participating in the program; to make residents of temporary housing for 30 days or less ineligible for the program; and to require a program participant's actual address to be disclosed pursuant to court order.

§§ 16.1-69.55 and 17.1-213 are amended to require that documents in misdemeanor domestic violence cases and violation of protection order cases be retained for 20 years by the court.



WASHINGTON

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 105 days in odd-numbered years and to 60 days in even-numbered years.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 41.04.655 is amended to add a definition of “domestic violence,” for the purposes of the leave-sharing program, to mean physical harm, bodily injury, assault or the infliction of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault between family or household members; sexual assault of one family or household member by another family or household member; or stalking of one family or household member by another family or household member.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 26.50.050 is amended to prohibit courts from requiring more than two attempts at obtaining personal service of a protection order hearing and to allow service by publication unless the petitioner requests additional time to attempt personal service.

§ 26.50.130 is amended to require personal service of a hearing to modify an existing order of protection upon the nonmoving party not less than five days prior to the hearing; to require, where this service cannot be made, that the court set a new hearing date and that an additional attempt at service be made or that the court permit service by publication or mail; and to require, where the court permits service by publication or mail, a hearing date be set not later than 24 days from the date of the order allowing service by publication or mail.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 41.04.660 is amended to extend the leave sharing program to state employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

§§ 49.76.010 through 49.76.150 are enacted as the Domestic Violence Leave Act, which relates to increasing safety and economic security of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

WASHINGTON



This act allows an employee to take reasonable leave from work, intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, with or without pay, to seek legal or law enforcement assistance or physical or mental health treatment, to assist a family member in obtaining such assistance, or to participate in or take action to increase the safety of the victim.



WEST VIRGINIA

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Annual. The session starts in January and is limited to 60 days.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 61-2-9a is re-enacted to create the crimes of stalking and harassment and to set forth definitions and penalties for these offenses.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 51-1-21 is added to authorize the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to maintain a domestic violence database of protective orders issued by the courts of the state, and when possible, those issued by other jurisdictions.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session begins in January.

DEFINITIONS:

§ 939.22 is amended to expand the definition of “dangerous weapon,” as it relates to strangulation and suffocation, to include any ligature or other instrumentality used on the throat, neck, nose, or mouth of another person to impede, partially or completely, breathing or circulation of blood; to add a definition for “petechia,” which means a minute colored spot that appears on the skin, eye, eyelid, or mucus membrane of a person as a result of a localized hemorrhage or rupture to a blood vessel or capillary; and to add a petechia to the definition of “substantial bodily harm.”

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES:

§ 940.235 is added to make strangulation and suffocation a class H felony and a class G felony where there are previous convictions for this crime.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§§ 813.122, 813.123, and 813.125 are amended to make injunctions relating to child abuse, individuals at risk, and harassment effective as soon as they are issued by the court, provided that the respondent was served with the petition and notice of the time and place for the injunction hearing.

MISCELLANEOUS:

§ 66.0627 is amended to prohibit cities, villages, towns, or counties from enacting or enforcing ordinances that impose a fee on the owner or occupant of property for placing a call to law enforcement to request services for domestic abuse or stalking.

§ 704.16 is added to permit tenants to terminate a lease with written notice if they can demonstrate an imminent threat of physical harm to the tenant or tenant’s child and the tenant provides to the landlord an injunction, no contact bail condition, or a criminal complaint alleging sexual assault, stalking, or domestic abuse of the tenant or the tenant’s child.

§ 70.44 is added to make rental agreements void and unenforceable if they allow a landlord to increase rent, decrease services, bring action for possession of the premises, or refuse to renew a rental agreement because a tenant contacts law enforcement, health, or safety services.

WYOMING



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Biennium. The session begins in January and is limited to 60 days.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION:

§ 35-21-105 is amended to prohibit a court from ordering a respondent to participate in counseling or other appropriate treatment for a period of time that is longer than an order of protection is in effect.



STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 4762
Montgomery, Alabama 36101
Phone: (334) 832-4842
Hotline: (800) 650-6522
Fax: (334) 832-4803
Email: info@acadv.org
Website: www.acadv.org

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

130 Seward St., Suite 209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
Email: info@andvsa.org
Website: www.andvsa.org

Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

301 E Bethany Home Rd.,
Suite C194
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
Phone: (602) 279-2900
Hotline: (800) 782-6400
TTY: (602) 279-7270
Fax: (602) 279-2980
Email: acadv@azcadv.org
Website: www.azcadv.org

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1401 W Capitol Ave., Suite 170
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Phone: (501) 907-5612
Toll-Free: (800) 269-4668
Fax: (501) 907-5618
Email: acadv@domesticpeace.com
Website: www.domesticpeace.com

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 1798
Sacramento, California 95812
Phone: (916) 444-7163
Hotline: (800) 524-4765
Fax: (916) 444-7165
Email: info@cpedv.org
Website: www.cpedv.org

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1120 Lincoln St., Suite 900
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 831-9632
Hotline: (888) 778-7091
Fax: (303) 832-7067
Email: ccadv@ccadv.org
Website: www.ccadv.org

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

90 Pitkin St.
East Hartford, Connecticut 06108
Phone: (860) 282-7899
Hotline: (888) 774-2900
Fax: (860) 282-7892
Website: www.ctcadv.org

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

100 W 10th St., Suite 703
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
Phone: (302) 658-2958
Fax: (302) 658-5049
Email: dcadv@dcadv.org
Website: www.dcadv.org

District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

5 Thomas Circle NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Phone: (202) 299-1181
Fax: (202) 299-1193
Email: info@dccadv.org
Website: www.dccadv.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

425 Office Plaza Dr.
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: (850) 425-2749
Hotline: (800) 500-1119
TDD: (800) 621-4202
Fax: (850) 425-3091
Website: www.fcadv.org

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

114 New St., Suite B
Decatur, Georgia 30030
Phone: (404) 209-0280
Hotline: (800) 33-HAVEN
Fax: (404) 766-3800
Email: info@gcadv.org
Website: www.gcadv.org

Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

716 Umi St., Suite 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-2337
Phone: (808) 832-9316
Fax: (808) 841-6028
Website: www.hscadv.org

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

300 Mallard Dr., Suite 130
Boise, Idaho 83706
Phone: (208) 384-0419
Hotline: (888) 293-6118
Fax: (208) 331-0687
Website: www.idvsa.org

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

801 S 11th St.
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Phone: (217) 789-2830
TTY: (217) 241-0376
Fax: (217) 789-1939
Email: ilcadv@ilcadv.org
Website: www.ilcadv.org

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1915 W 18th St., Suite B
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Phone: (317) 917-3685 or
(800) 538-3393
Hotline: (800) 332-7385
Fax: (317) 917-3695
Email: icadv@violenceresource.org
LegalTA@violenceresource.org
Website: www.violenceresource.org

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

515 28th St., Suite 104
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
Phone: (515) 244-8028
Hotline: (800) 942-0333
TTY: (800) 942-0333
Fax: (515) 244-7417
Email: admin@icadv.org
Website: www.icadv.org

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

634 SW Harrison
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Voice/TTY:(785) 232-9784
Hotline: (888) 363-2287
Fax: (785) 266-1874
Website: www.kcsdv.org

Kentucky Domestic Violence Association

P.O. Box 356
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0356
Phone: (502) 209-5382
Fax: (502) 226-5382
Email: info@kdva.org
Website: www.kdva.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 77308
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70879-7308
Phone: (225) 752-1296
Hotline: (888) 411-1333
Fax: (225) 751-8927
Website: www.lcadv.org

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

170 Park St.
Bangor, Maine 04401
Phone: (207) 941-1194
Fax: (207) 941-2327
Email: info@mcedv.org
Website: www.mcedv.org

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

6911 Laurel-Bowie Rd., Suite 309
Bowie, Maryland 20715
Phone: (301) 352-4574
Hotline: (800) MD-HELPS
Fax: (301) 809-0422
Email: info@mnadv.org
Website: www.mnadv.org

Jane Doe Inc./ Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

14 Beacon St., Suite 507
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Phone: (617) 248-0922
Hotline: (877) 785-2020
TTY/TDD: (617) 263-2200
Fax: (617) 248-0902
Email: info@janedoe.org
Website: www.janedoe.org

Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence

3893 Okemos Rd., Suite B-2
Okemos, Michigan 48864
Phone: (517) 347-7000
TTY: (517) 381-8470
Fax: (517) 347-1377
Email: general@mcadsv.org
Website: www.mcadsv.org

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

590 Park St., Suite 410
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
Voice/TDD: (651) 646-6177
Toll-Free: (800) 289-6177
Hotline: (651) 646-0994
Fax: (651) 646-1527
Website: www.mcbw.org

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 4703
Jackson, Mississippi 39296
Phone: (601) 981-9196
Hotline: (800) 898-3234
Fax: (601) 981-2501
Website: www.mcadv.org

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence

217 Oscar Dr., Suite A
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Phone: (573) 634-4161
Toll-Free (888) 666-1911
Fax: (573) 636-3728
Email: mocadsv@mocadsv.org
Website: www.mocadsv.org

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 818
Helena, Montana 59624
Phone: (406) 443-7794
Toll-Free (888) 404-7794
Fax: (406) 443-7818
Email: mcadsv@mt.net
Website: www.mcadsv.com

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

1000 O Street, Suite 102
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Phone: (402) 476-6256
Hotline: (800) 876-6238
Fax: (402) 476-6806
Email: info@ndvsac.org
Website: www.ndvsac.org

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

220 S Rock Boulevard,
Suite 7
Reno, Nevada 89502
Phone: (775) 828-1115
Toll-Free: (800) 230-1955
Hotline: (800) 500-1556
Fax: (775) 828-9911
Website: www.nnadv.org

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 353
Concord, New Hampshire 03302
Phone: (603) 224-8893
Hotline: (866) 644-3574 (in state)
Fax: (603) 228-6096
Website: www.nhcadsv.org

New Jersey Coalition For Battered Women

1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Rd.
Trenton, New Jersey 08690-3541
Phone: (609) 584-8107
Hotline: (800) 572-7233
TTY: (609) 584-0027
Fax: (609) 584-9750
Email: info@njcbw.org
Website: www.njcbw.org

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence

201 Coal Ave. SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
Phone: (505) 246-9240
Fax: (505) 246-9434
Email: info@nmcadv.org
Website: www.nmcadv.org

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

350 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, New York 12208
Phone: (518) 482-5465
Hotline: (800) 942-6906 (English)
(800) 942-6908 (Spanish)
TTY: (800) 818-0656 (English)
(800) 780-7660 (Spanish)
Fax: (518) 482-3807
Email: nyscadv@nyscadv.org
Website: www.nyscadv.org

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

123 W Main St., Suite 700
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Phone: (919) 956-9124
Toll-Free: (888) 232-9124
Fax: (919) 682-1449
Website: www.nccadv.org

North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services

418 E Rosser Ave., Suite 320
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Phone: (701) 255-6240
Toll-Free: (888) 255-6240
Fax: (701) 255-1904
Email: ndcaws@ndcaws.org
Website: www.ndcaws.org

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

4807 Evanswood Dr., Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: (614) 781-9651
Toll-Free: (800) 934-9840
Fax: (614) 781-9652
Email: info@odvn.org
Website: www.odvn.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women

5900 Roche Dr., Suite 445
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: (614) 825-0551
Toll-Free: (888) 622-9315
Fax: (614) 825-0673
Email: actionohio@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.actionohio.org

Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

3815 N Santa Fe Ave., Suite 124
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
Phone: (405) 524-0700
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Email: info@ocadvsa.org
Website: www.ocadvsa.org

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

380 SE Spokane St., Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202
Phone: (503) 230-1951
Hotline: (888) 235-5333
Fax: (503) 230-1973
Website: www.ocadsv.org

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112
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TTY: (800) 553-2508
Fax: (717) 671-8149
Legal Office
PA Only: (888) 23-LEGAL
National: (800) 903-0111 ext. 2
Fax: (717) 671-5542
Website: www.pcadv.org

Coordinadora Paz Para La Mujer, Inc.

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Website: www.pazparalamujer.org

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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Email: ricadv@ricadv.org
Website: www.ricadv.org

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

P.O. Box 7776
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
Phone: (803) 256-2900
Toll Free: (800) 260-9293
Fax: (803) 256-1030
Website: www.sccadvasa.org

South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Pierre Office
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Pierre, South Dakota 57501
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Hotline: (800) 572-9196
Fax: (605) 945-0870
Email: pierre@sdcadvasa.org
Website: www.sdcadvasa.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

International Plaza
2 International Plaza Dr., Suite 425
Nashville, Tennessee 37217
Phone: (615) 386-9406
Toll Free: (800) 289-9018
Fax: (615) 383-2967
Email: tcadsv@tcadsv.org
Website: www.tcadsv.org

Texas Council on Family Violence

P.O. Box 161810
Austin, Texas 78716
Phone: (512) 794-1133
Toll Free: (800) 525-1978
Hotline: (800) 799-7233
Fax: (512) 794-1199
Website: www.tcfv.org

Utah Domestic Violence Council

205 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Phone: (801) 521-5544
Hotline: (800) 897-5465
Fax: (801) 521-5548
Website: www.udvc.org

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 405
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
Phone: (802) 223-1302
Hotline: (800) 228-7395
TTY: (802) 223-1115
Email: vtnetwork@vtnetwork.org
Website: www.vtnetwork.org

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

The Corporate Center
5008 Monument Ave., Suite A
Richmond, Virginia 23230
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Hotline/TTY:(800) 838-8238
Fax: (804) 377-0339
Email: info@vsdvalliance.org
Website: www.vsdvalliance.org

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Olympia Office
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Olympia, Washington 98501
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Fax: (360) 586-1024
Email: wscadv@wscadv.org
Website: www.wscadv.org

Seattle Office

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Email: wscadv@wscadv.org
Website: www.wscadv.org

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

5004 Elk River Rd S
Elkview, West Virginia 25071
Voice/TTY:(304) 965-3552
Hotline: (800) 799-7233
Fax: (304) 965-3572
Website: www.wvcadv.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

307 South Paterson St., #1
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Phone: (608) 255-0539
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Email: wcadv@wcadv.org
Website: www.wcadv.org

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

710 Garfield, Suite 218
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Laramie, Wyoming 82073
Phone: (307) 755-5481
Hotline: (800) 990-3877
Legal Line: (307) 755-0992
Fax: (307) 755-5482
Email: info@mail.wyomingdvsa.org
Website: www.wyomingdvsa.org

Women's Coalition of St. Croix

P.O. Box 2734
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00822
Phone: (340) 773-9272
Fax: (340) 773-9062
Email: wscs@pennswoods.net
Website: www.wcstx.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Alabama Legislative Reference Service

State House, Suite 613
11 S Union St.
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
Phone: (334) 242-7560
Fax: (334) 242-4358
Website: www.lrs.state.al.us

Alaska Legislative Information Office

Juneau Legislative Information Office
State Capitol, Terry Miller Building, Suite 111
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Email: juneau_lio@legis.state.ak.us
Website: www.w3.legis.state.ak.us

Arizona House Information Desk

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Website: www.azleg.gov

Arizona Senate Information Desk

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Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research

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California Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly

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California Office of the Secretary of the Senate

State Capitol, Room 3044
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Colorado Legislative Council

State Capitol, Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203
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Fax: (303) 866-3855
Website: www.colorado.gov

Connecticut Law and Legislative Reference Unit

State Library, Room L212
231 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
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Fax: (860) 757-6539
Website: www.cslib.org

Delaware Division of Research, Legislative Council

Legislative Hall, Ground Floor
411 Legislative Ave.
P.O. Box 1401
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Fax: (302) 739-3895
Website: www.legis.delaware.gov

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Washington, DC 20004
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Fax: (202) 347-3070
Website: www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us

Florida Division of Legislative Information Services

Claude Pepper Building,
Room 704
111 W Madison St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400
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Fax: (850) 921-5334
Email: leg.info@leg.state.fl.us
Website: www.leg.state.fl.us

Georgia Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives

State Capitol, Room 309
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: (404) 656-5015
Website: www.legis.state.ga.us
Georgia Office of the Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 353
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: (404) 656-5040
Fax: (404) 656-5043
Website: www.state.ga.us/legis

Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau

State Capitol, Room 005
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 587-0690
Fax: (808) 587-0699
Email: lrb@capitol.hawaii.gov
Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Idaho Legislative Reference Library

Legislative Services Office
Capitol Annex, 514 W Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0054
Phone: (208) 334-2475
Fax: (208) 334-2125
Email: lsoweb@iso.idaho.gov
Website: www.legislature.idaho.gov

Illinois Legislative Research Unit

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Website: www.ilga.gov

Indiana House of Representatives Legislative Services Agency

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2786
Phone: (317) 232-9600
Website: www.in.gov/legislative

Indiana State Senate Legislative Services Agency

200 W Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785
Phone: (317) 232-9400
Website: www.in.gov/legislative

Iowa Legislative Information Office

State Capitol, Ground Floor,
Room G16
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
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Email: lioinfo@legis.state.ia.us
Website: www.legis.state.ia.us

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Kansas Division of Legislative Administrative Services

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Topeka, Kansas 66612
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Fax: (785) 296-1153
Email: sharon@las.state.ks.us
Website: www.kansas.gov

Kentucky Legislative Research Commission

State Capitol, Room 300
700 Capitol Ave.
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-8100
Fax: (502) 223-5094
Email: robert.jenkins@lrc.ky.gov
Website: www.lrc.state.ky.us

Louisiana State Library

Louisiana Room
701 N Fourth St.
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
Phone: (225) 342-4914
Fax: (225) 342-2791
Email: laref1@slol.lib.la.us
Website: www.state.lib.la.us

Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library

State House, Room 202
43 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0043
Phone: (207) 287-1600
Fax: (207) 287-6467
Website: www.maine.gov/legis

Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Information Desk, Library Division
Legislative Services Building, Basement
90 State Cir.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991
Phone: (410) 946-5400
Fax: (410) 946-5405
Email: libr@mlis.state.md.us
Website: http://mlis.state.md.us

Massachusetts Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives

State House, Room 145
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
Phone: (617) 722-2356
Fax: (617) 722-2798
Website: www.mass.gov/legis

Massachusetts Office of the Clerk of the Senate

State House, Room 335
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
Phone: (617) 722-1276
Website: www.mass.gov/legis

Michigan Clerk of the House

State Capitol, Room H70
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: (517) 373-0135
Fax: (517) 373-5930
Email: clerk@house.mi.gov
Website: www.michiganlegislature.org

Michigan Secretary of the Senate

State Capitol, Room S5
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536
Phone: (517) 373-2400
Fax: (517) 373-9635
Website: www.michiganlegislature.org

Minnesota House Public Information Office

State Office Building, Room 175
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: (651) 296-2146
Fax: (651) 297-8135
Website: www.house.leg.state.mn.us

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Minnesota Senate Information Office

State Capitol, Room 231
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1606
Phone: (651) 296-0504
Toll-Free: (888) 234-1112
Fax: (651) 296-6511
Website: www.senate.leg.state.mn.us

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

State Office Building, Room 645
100 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1050
Phone: (651) 296-8338
Website: www.leg.state.mn.us

Mississippi Clerk of the House

New Capitol, Room 305
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, Mississippi 39215
Phone: (601) 359-3360
Fax: (601) 359-3728
Website: www.billstatus.ls.state.ms.us

Mississippi Secretary of the Senate

New Capitol, Room 313
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, Mississippi 39215
Phone: (601) 359-3202
Fax: (601) 359-2129
Website: www.billstatus.ls.state.ms.us

Missouri Legislative Library, Committee on Legislative Research

State Capitol, Third Floor
201 W Capitol 117A
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Phone: (573) 751-4633
Email: leg.library@lr.mo.gov
Website: www.moga.mo.gov

Montana Legislative Services Division

State Capitol, Room 110
1301 E Sixth Ave.
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620-1706
Phone: (406) 444-3064
Fax: (406) 444-3036
Email: sfox@mt.gov
Website: <http://leg.mt.gov>

Nebraska Clerk of the Legislature

State Capitol, Room 2018
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
Phone: (402) 471-2271
Fax: (402) 471-2126
Website: www.unicam.state.ne.us

Nevada Legislative Council Bureau

Research Library
Sedway Office Building, First Floor
333 E Fifth St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
(Mailing address: Research Library,
401 S Carson St.)
Phone: (775) 684-6827
Fax: (775) 684-6420
Email: library@lcb.state.nv.us
Website: www.leg.state.nv.us

New Hampshire Reference and Information Services

New Hampshire State Library
20 Park St.
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: (603) 271-2239
Fax: (603) 271-2205
Website: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us>

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

New Jersey Legislative Information and Bill Room

State House Annex, Room 50
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Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068
Phone: (609) 292-4840
Fax: (609) 777-2440
Email: leginfo@njleg.org
Website: www.njleg.state.nj.us

New Mexico Legislative Council Service

State Capitol, Room 411
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4600
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New York Assembly Public Information Office

Legislative Office Building, Room 202
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Website: <http://assembly.state.ny.us>

New York Office of the Secretary of the Senate

State Capitol, Room 321
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North Carolina Legislative Services Office

State Legislative Building, Room 2129
16 W Jones St.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1030
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Fax: (919) 715-2739
Website: www.ncga.state.nc.us

North Dakota Legislative Council

State Capitol, Second Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0360
Phone: (701) 328-2916
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Email: lcouncil@nd.gov
Website: www.legis.nd.gov

Ohio Office of the Clerk

State House
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-3357
Fax: (614) 644-8744
Website: www.house.state.oh.us

Oklahoma Law and Legislative Reference Division

Oklahoma Department of Libraries
State Capitol, Room B-8
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(Mailing address: 200 N.E. 18th Street)
Phone: (405) 522-3212
Fax: (405) 521-2753
Email: lawreference@altn.odl.state.ok.us
Website: www.odl.state.ok.us

Oregon Administrator's Office, Legislative Administration Committee

State Capitol, Room 140-A
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
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Email: scott.burgess@state.or.us
Website: www.leg.state.or.us

Pennsylvania Library, Legislative Reference Bureau

Main Capitol Building, Room 641
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0030
Phone: (717) 787-4223
Fax: (717) 783-2396
Email: pasesslaws@palib.us
Website: www.legis.state.pa.us

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Puerto Rico Secretary of the House

The Capitol, Second Floor
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Puerto Rico

MicroJuris
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Fax: (787) 723-0672
Email: info@microjuris.com
Website: www.microjuris.com

Rhode Island Legislative Reference, State Library

State House, Room 208
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
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Email: statelibrary@sec.state.ri.us
Website: www.state.ri.us

South Carolina Legislative Council

1000 Assembly St., Room 434
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Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Phone: (803) 212-4500
Fax: (803) 212-4501
Website: www.scstatehouse.net

South Dakota Legislative Research Council

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Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
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Website: <http://legis.state.sd.us>

Tennessee Office of Legislative Information Services

Rachel Jackson Building, First Floor
320 Sixth Ave. N
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0058
Phone: (615) 741-3511
Website: www.capitol.tn.gov

Texas Legislative Reference Library

State Capitol, Room 2N.3
1100 Congress Ave.
P.O. Box 12488
Austin, Texas 78711-2488
Phone: (512) 463-1252
Fax: (512) 475-4626
Website: www.capitol.state.tx.us

Utah Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
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Website: www.le.state.ut.us

Vermont Legislative Council

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115 State St., Drawer 33
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Phone: (802) 828-2231
Fax: (802) 828-2424
Website: www.leg.state.vt.us

Virginia Legislative Information Office

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P.O. Box 406
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Phone: (804) 698-1500
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Website: <http://legis.state.va.us>

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Washington Office of the Clerk of the House

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Washington Office of the Secretary of the Senate

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Washington Legislative Information Center

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West Virginia Office of Legislative Services

State Capitol, Room 132-E
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Website: www.legis.state.wv.us

Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau

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Wyoming Legislative Service Office

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