

## CHAPTER 97-27

### Senate Bill No. 198

An act relating to stalking; creating the “Jennifer Act”; amending s. 784.048, F.S.; defining the offense of aggravated stalking of a minor under age 16; providing penalties; amending s. 921.0012, F.S.; providing for classification of such offense within the offense severity ranking chart; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Jennifer Act.”

Section 2. Section 784.048, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

784.048 Stalking; definitions; penalties.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Harass” ~~“Harasses”~~ means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such person and serves no legitimate purpose.

(b) “Course of conduct” means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of “course of conduct.” Such constitutionally protected activity includes picketing or other organized protests.

(c) “Credible threat” means a threat made with the intent to cause the person who is the target of the threat to reasonably fear for his or her safety. The threat must be against the life of, or a threat to cause bodily injury to, a person.

(2) Any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) Any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person, and makes a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury, commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(4) Any person who, after an injunction for protection against repeat violence pursuant to s. 784.046, or an injunction for protection against domestic violence pursuant to s. 741.30, or after any other court-imposed prohibition of conduct toward the subject person or that person’s property, knowingly, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(5) Any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses a minor under 16 years of age commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(6)(5) Any law enforcement officer may arrest, without a warrant, any person he or she has probable cause to believe has violated the provisions of this section.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 921.0012, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

921.0012 Sentencing guidelines offense levels; offense severity ranking chart.—

(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
		(f) LEVEL 6
316.027(1)(b)	2nd	Accident involving death, failure to stop; leaving scene.
316.193(2)(b)	3rd	Felony DUI, 4th or subsequent conviction.
775.0875(1)	3rd	Taking firearm from law enforcement officer.
784.021(1)(a)	3rd	Aggravated assault; deadly weapon without intent to kill.
784.021(1)(b)	3rd	Aggravated assault; intent to commit felony.
784.048(3)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; credible threat.
<u>784.048(5)</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Aggravated stalking of person under 16.</u>
784.07(2)(c)	2nd	Aggravated assault on law enforcement officer.
784.08(2)(b)	2nd	Aggravated assault on a person 65 years of age or older.
784.081(2)	2nd	Aggravated assault on specified official or employee.
784.082(2)	2nd	Aggravated assault by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
787.02(2)	3rd	False imprisonment; restraining with purpose other than those in s. 787.01.
790.115(2)(d)	2nd	Discharging firearm or weapon on school property.
790.161(2)	2nd	Make, possess, or throw destructive device with intent to do bodily harm or damage property.
790.164(1)	2nd	False report of deadly explosive or act of arson or violence to state property.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
790.19	2nd	Shooting or throwing deadly missiles into dwellings, vessels, or vehicles.
794.011(8)(a)	3rd	Solicitation of minor to participate in sexual activity by custodial adult.
794.05(1)	2nd	Unlawful sexual activity with specified minor.
806.031(2)	2nd	Arson resulting in great bodily harm to firefighter or any other person.
810.02(3)(c)	2nd	Burglary of occupied structure; unarmed; no assault or battery.
812.014(2)(b)	2nd	Property stolen \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000, grand theft in 2nd degree.
812.13(2)(c)	2nd	Robbery, no firearm or other weapon (strong-arm robbery).
817.034(4)(a)1.	1st	Communications fraud, value greater than \$50,000.
817.4821(5)	2nd	Possess cloning paraphernalia with intent to create cloned cellular telephones.
825.102(1)	3rd	Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.102(3)(c)	3rd	Neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.1025(3)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious molestation of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.103(2)(c)	3rd	Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at \$100 or more, but less than \$20,000.
827.03(1)	3rd	Abuse of a child.
827.03(3)(c)	3rd	Neglect of a child.
827.071(2)&(3)	2nd	Use or induce a child in a sexual performance, or promote or direct such performance.
836.05	2nd	Threats; extortion.
836.10	2nd	Written threats to kill or do bodily injury.
843.12	3rd	Aids or assists person to escape.
914.23	2nd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, with bodily injury.
944.35(3)(a)2.	3rd	Committing malicious battery upon or inflicting cruel or inhuman treatment on an inmate or offender on community supervision, resulting in great bodily harm.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
944.40	2nd	Escapes.
944.46	3rd	Harboring, concealing, aiding escaped prisoners.
944.47(1)(a)5.	2nd	Introduction of contraband (firearm, weapon, or explosive) into correctional facility.
951.22(1)	3rd	Intoxicating drug, firearm, or weapon introduced into county facility.

Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved by the Governor April 29, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 29, 1997.