

## CHAPTER 2017-14

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 239

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.0714, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for petitions, and the contents thereof, for certain protective injunctions that are dismissed in certain circumstances; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (k) is added to subsection (1) of section 119.0714, Florida Statutes, to read:

119.0714 Court files; court records; official records.—

(1) COURT FILES.—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt from s. 119.07(1) a public record that was made a part of a court file and that is not specifically closed by order of court, except:

(k)1. A petition, and the contents thereof, for an injunction for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or cyberstalking that is dismissed without a hearing, dismissed at an ex parte hearing due to failure to state a claim or lack of jurisdiction, or dismissed for any reason having to do with the sufficiency of the petition itself without an injunction being issued on or after July 1, 2017, is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2. A petition, and the contents thereof, for an injunction for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or cyberstalking that is dismissed without a hearing, dismissed at an ex parte hearing due to failure to state a claim or lack of jurisdiction, or dismissed for any reason having to do with the sufficiency of the petition itself without an injunction being issued before July 1, 2017, is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution only upon request by an individual named in the petition as a respondent. The request must be in the form of a signed, legibly written request specifying the case name, case number, document heading, and page number. The request must be delivered by mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission or in person to the clerk of the court. A fee may not be charged for such request.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that a petition, and the contents thereof, for an injunction for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or cyberstalking that is dismissed without a hearing, dismissed at an ex parte hearing due to failure to state a claim or lack of jurisdiction, or dismissed for any reason having to do with the sufficiency of the petition itself without an injunction being issued be made exempt from s. 119.07(1),

Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Legislature finds that the existence of, and the unverified allegations contained in, such a petition may be defamatory to an individual named in it and cause unwarranted damage to the reputation of such individual. The Legislature further finds that removing such a record from public disclosure is the sole means of protecting the reputation of such an individual.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor May 9, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 9, 2017.