

## Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 55

An act relating to protection against domestic violence; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; limiting certain fees for injunctions relating to domestic violence; amending s. 44.102, F.S.; providing that a case is not referable to family mediation if the court finds there has been a history of domestic violence; amending s. 61.13, F.S., relating to child custody and support; providing for creation of a rebuttable presumption of detriment to a child upon evidence of a parent's conviction of a felony involving domestic violence; providing for evidence of domestic violence or child abuse to be considered by the court as evidence of detriment to the child; providing for consideration that a party has knowingly provided false information to the court regarding domestic violence or child abuse in custody proceedings; providing for consideration of domestic violence and child abuse in custody proceedings; providing for consideration of allegations of domestic violence or child abuse in custody proceedings; amending s. 741.28, F.S.; redefining "domestic violence" to include kidnapping and false imprisonment and other specified criminal offenses resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another; amending s. 741.30, F.S.; providing for court orders to protect the children of the domestic violence victim's minor children; revising the period during which injunctive relief remains effective; providing for motion to modify or dissolve injunction by either party; providing for indication of specified information on the face of a temporary or final judgment for protection against domestic violence; prescribing conditions under which persons may present evidence or recommendations; providing for information through the clerk of the court; specifying information to be included in the petition for injunction for protection from domestic violence; providing certain procedures after granting an ex parte injunction; requiring the court to provide respondents with a list of batterers' intervention programs; requiring certification of batterers' intervention programs; providing for petitioners to be referred to a certified domestic violence center; providing for petitioners to be provided a list of domestic violence centers which may be contacted; limiting total charges for issuing or serving injunctions or restraining orders relating to domestic violence; amending s. 741.31, F.S.; defining the offense of willfully violating a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit by specified acts; providing penalties; creating s. 741.315, F.S.; requiring that an injunction for protection against domestic violence issued by a "court of a foreign state," as defined, be accorded full faith and credit; providing exceptions; providing for availability of a registration procedure to protected persons; providing duties of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and sheriffs and other local law enforcement officers with respect to registration and enforcement of foreign protection order; providing certain immunity from civil and criminal liability to law enforcement officer and officer's employing agency; defining the offense of intentionally

providing a law enforcement officer with a copy of protection order known to be invalid or denying having been served with protection order when served; providing penalties; amending s. 784.046, F.S., relating to action by victim of repeat violence for protective injunction; providing certain immunity from civil and criminal liability to law enforcement officer and officer's employing agency; revising period of duration of injunctive relief; amending s. 784.047, F.S., relating to penalties for violating protective injunction against repeat violators; defining offenses of willfully violating a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit by committing specified acts; providing penalties; amending s. 901.15, F.S., relating to circumstances when arrest by officer without warrant is lawful; providing conforming terminology and cross-references; providing certain immunity from civil liability to law enforcement officer; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 28.241, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

28.241 Filing charges for trial and appellate proceedings.—

(5) The fees prescribed in this section do not include the service charges required by law for the clerk as provided in s. 28.24 or by other sections of the Florida Statutes. Service charges authorized by this section may not be added to any civil penalty imposed by chapter 316 or chapter 318. Fees for injunctions concerning domestic violence shall be limited as provided in s. 741.30(2)(a).

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 44.102, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

44.102 Court-ordered mediation.—

(2) A court, under rules adopted by the Supreme Court:

(b) In circuits in which a family mediation program has been established and upon a court finding of a dispute, shall refer to mediation all or part of custody, visitation, or other parental responsibility issues as defined in s. 61.13. Upon motion or request of a party, a court shall not refer any case to mediation if it finds there has been a significant history of domestic violence abuse that would compromise the mediation process.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended, present paragraph (k) of subsection (3) of that section is redesignated as paragraph (m), and new paragraphs (k) and (l) are added to that subsection, to read:

61.13 Custody and support of children; visitation rights; power of court in making orders.—

(2)

(b)1. The court shall determine all matters relating to custody of each minor child of the parties in accordance with the best interests of the child and in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act. It is the public policy of this state to assure that each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. After considering all relevant facts, the father of the child shall be given the same consideration as the mother in determining the primary residence of a child irrespective of the age or sex of the child.

2. The court shall order that the parental responsibility for a minor child be shared by both parents unless the court finds that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child. ~~The court shall consider evidence of spousal or child abuse as evidence of detriment to the child. The court shall consider~~ Evidence that a parent has been convicted of a felony of the ~~third~~ second degree or higher involving domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28 and chapter 775, creates as a rebuttable presumption of detriment to the child. If the presumption is not rebutted, shared parental responsibility, including visitation, residence of the child, and decisions made regarding the child, shall not be granted to the convicted parent. However, the convicted parent shall not be relieved of any obligation to provide financial support. If the court determines that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child, it may order sole parental responsibility and make such arrangements for visitation as will best protect the child or abused spouse from further harm. Whether or not there is a conviction of any offense of domestic violence or child abuse or the existence of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, the court shall consider evidence of domestic violence or child abuse as evidence of detriment to the child.

a. In ordering shared parental responsibility, the court may consider the expressed desires of the parents and may grant to one party the ultimate responsibility over specific aspects of the child's welfare or may divide those responsibilities between the parties based on the best interests of the child. Areas of responsibility may include primary residence, education, medical and dental care, and any other responsibilities which the court finds unique to a particular family.

b. The court shall order "sole parental responsibility, with or without visitation rights, to the other parent when it is in the best interests of" the minor child.

c. The court may award the grandparents visitation rights of a minor child if it is in the child's best interest. Grandparents shall have legal standing to seek judicial enforcement of such an award. Nothing in this section shall require that grandparents be made parties or given notice of dissolution pleadings or proceedings, nor shall grandparents have legal standing as "contestants" as defined in s. 61.1306. No court shall order that a child be kept within the state or jurisdiction of the court solely for the purpose of permitting visitation by the grandparents.

3. Access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records, shall not be denied to a parent because such parent is not the child's primary residential parent.

(3) For purposes of shared parental responsibility and primary residence, the best interests of the child shall include an evaluation of all factors affecting the welfare and interests of the child, including, but not limited to:

(k) Evidence that any party has knowingly provided false information to the court regarding a domestic violence proceeding pursuant to s. 741.30.

(l) Evidence of domestic violence or child abuse.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 741.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.28 Domestic violence; definitions.—As used in ss. 741.28-741.31:

(1) "Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another who is or was residing in the same single dwelling unit.

Section 5. Section 741.30, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement.—

(1) There is created a cause of action for an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

(a) Any person described in paragraph (e), who is the victim of any act of domestic violence, or has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming ~~may become~~ the victim of any act of domestic violence, has standing in the circuit court to file a sworn petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

(b) This cause of action for an injunction may be sought whether or not any other cause of action is currently pending between the parties. However, the pendency of any such cause of action shall be alleged in the petition.

(c) In the event a subsequent cause of action is filed under chapter 61, any orders entered therein shall take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of an injunction issued under this section which addresses matters governed by chapter 61.

(d) A person's right to petition for an injunction shall not be affected by such person having left a residence or household to avoid domestic violence.

(e) This cause of action for an injunction may be sought by family or household members. No person shall be precluded from seeking injunctive

relief pursuant to this chapter solely on the basis that such person is not a spouse.

(f) This cause of action for an injunction shall not require that either party ~~the petitioner~~ be represented by an attorney.

(g) Any person, including an officer of the court, who offers evidence or recommendations relating to the cause of action must either present the evidence or recommendations in writing to the court with copies to each party and their attorney, or must present the evidence under oath at a hearing at which all parties are present.

~~(h)~~(g) Nothing in this section shall affect the title to any real estate.

~~(i)~~(h) The court is prohibited from issuing mutual orders of protection. This does not preclude the court from issuing separate injunctions for protection against domestic violence where each party has complied with the provisions of this section. Compliance with the provisions of this section cannot be waived.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the total charge, including any administration fees, law enforcement agency charges, and court costs or service charges, for any court to issue an injunction concerning domestic violence under chapter 741 or chapter 784 shall not exceed \$50. The total charge by any law enforcement agency to serve an injunction or restraining order concerning violence shall not exceed \$20. The remaining \$30 fee collected for an injunction under chapter 741 shall only be applied to the initial \$40 service charge collected by the clerk of the court as provided in s. 28.241(1). In the event the victim does not have sufficient funds with which to pay filing fees to the clerk of the court or service fees to the sheriff or law enforcement agency and signs an affidavit stating so, the fees shall be waived by the clerk of the court or the sheriff or law enforcement agency to the extent necessary to process the petition and serve the injunction, subject to a subsequent order of the court relative to the payment of such fees.

(b) No bond shall be required by the court for the entry of an injunction.

(c)1. The clerk of the court shall assist petitioners in seeking both injunctions for protection against domestic violence and enforcement for a violation thereof as specified in this section.

2. All clerks' offices shall provide simplified petition forms for the injunction, any modifications, and the enforcement thereof, including instructions for completion.

3. The clerk of the court shall advise petitioners of the availability of affidavits of insolvency or indigence in lieu of payment for the cost of the filing fee, as provided in paragraph (a).

4. The clerk of the court shall ensure the petitioner's privacy to the extent practical while completing the forms for injunctions for protection against domestic violence.

5. The clerk of the court shall provide petitioners with a minimum of two certified copies of the order of injunction, one of which is serviceable and will inform the petitioner of the process for service and enforcement.

6. Clerks of court and appropriate staff in each county shall receive training in the effective assistance of petitioners as provided or approved by the Florida Association of Court Clerks.

7. The clerk of the court in each county shall make available informational brochures on domestic violence when such brochures are provided by local certified domestic violence centers.

8. The clerk of the court in each county shall distribute a statewide uniform informational brochure to petitioners at the time of filing for an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence when such brochures become available. The brochure must include information about the effect of giving the court false information about domestic violence.

(3)(a) The sworn petition shall allege the existence of such domestic violence and shall include the specific facts and circumstances upon the basis of which relief is sought.

(b) The sworn petition shall be in substantially the following form:

PETITION FOR  
INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Petitioner ...~~(Name)~~..., who has been sworn and says that the following statements are true:

(a) Petitioner resides at: ...~~(address)~~...

(Petitioner may furnish address to the court in a separate confidential filing if, for safety reasons, the petitioner requires the location of the current residence to be confidential.)

(b) Respondent resides at: ...~~(last known address)~~...

(c) Respondent's last known place of employment: ...~~(name of business and address)~~...

(d) Physical description of respondent: ....

Race....

Sex....

Date of birth....

Height....

Weight....

Eye color....

Hair color....

Distinguishing marks or scars....

(e) Aliases of respondent: ....

(f) Respondent is the spouse or former spouse of the petitioner or is any other person related by blood or marriage to the petitioner or is any other person who is or was residing within a single dwelling unit with the petitioner, as if a family, or is a person with whom the petitioner has a child in common, regardless of whether the petitioner and respondent are or were married or residing together, as if a family.

(g) The following describes any other cause of action currently pending between the petitioner and respondent: . . . . .

The petitioner should also describe any previous or pending attempts by the petitioner to obtain an injunction for protection against domestic violence in this or any other circuit, and the results of that attempt . . . . .

Case numbers should be included if available.

(h) Petitioner has suffered or has reasonable cause to fear imminent domestic violence because respondent has: . . . . .

(i) Petitioner alleges the following additional specific facts: (mark appropriate sections)

....Petitioner is the custodian of a minor child or children whose names and ages are as follows: . . . . .

....Petitioner needs the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share.

....Petitioner is unable to obtain safe alternative housing because: . . . .

....Petitioner genuinely fears that respondent imminently will abuse, remove, or hide the minor child or children from petitioner because: . . . .

.....

(j) Petitioner genuinely fears imminent domestic violence by respondent.

(k) Petitioner seeks an injunction: (mark appropriate section or sections)

....Immediately restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

....Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

....Awarding to the petitioner the temporary exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

....Awarding temporary custody of, or temporary visitation rights with regard to, the minor child or children of the parties, or prohibiting or limiting visitation to that which is supervised by a third party.

...Establishing temporary support for the minor child or children or the petitioner.

...Directing the respondent to participate in a batterers' intervention program or other treatment pursuant to s. 415.601.

...Providing any terms the court deems necessary for the protection of a victim of domestic violence, or any minor children of the victim, including any injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies.

(c) Every petition for an injunction against domestic violence shall contain, directly above the signature line, a statement in all capital letters and bold type not smaller than the surrounding text, as follows:

I HAVE READ EVERY STATEMENT MADE IN THIS PETITION AND EACH STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS PETITION ARE BEING MADE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, PUNISHABLE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 837.02, FLORIDA STATUTES.

...(initials)...

(d) If the sworn petition seeks to determine issues of custody or visitation with regard to the minor child or children of the parties, the sworn petition shall be accompanied by or shall incorporate the allegations required by s. 61.132 of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act.

(4) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. The respondent shall be personally served with a copy of the petition, financial affidavit, uniform child custody jurisdiction act affidavit, if any, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, prior to the hearing.

(5)(a) When it appears to the court that an immediate and present danger of domestic violence exists, the court may grant a temporary injunction ex parte, pending a full hearing, and may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

2. Awarding to the petitioner the temporary exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

3. On the same basis as provided in s. 61.13(2), (3), (4), and (5), granting to the petitioner temporary custody of a minor child or children.

(b) In a hearing ex parte for the purpose of obtaining such ex parte temporary injunction, no evidence other than verified pleadings or affidavits shall be used as evidence, unless the respondent appears at the hearing or has received reasonable notice of the hearing. A denial of a petition for an ex parte injunction shall be by written order noting the legal grounds for denial. When the only ground for denial is no appearance of an immediate and present danger of domestic violence, the court shall set a full hearing



on the petition for injunction with notice at the earliest possible time. Nothing herein affects a petitioner's right to promptly amend any petition, or otherwise be heard in person on any petition consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

(c) Any such *ex parte* temporary injunction shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 15 days. A full hearing, as provided by this section, shall be set for a date no later than the date when the temporary injunction ceases to be effective. The court may grant a continuance of the ~~ex parte injunction and the full hearing~~ before or during a hearing for good cause shown by any party, which shall include a continuance to obtain service of process. Any injunction shall be extended if necessary to remain in full force and effect during any period of continuance.

(6)(a) Upon notice and hearing, the court may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

2. Awarding to the petitioner the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

3. On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, awarding temporary custody of, or temporary visitation rights with regard to, a minor child or children of the parties.

4. On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, establishing temporary support for a minor child or children or the petitioner.

5. Ordering the respondent to participate in treatment, intervention, or counseling services to be paid for by the respondent. When the court orders the respondent to participate in a batterers' intervention program, the court, or any entity designated by the court, must provide the respondent with a list of all certified batterers' intervention programs and all programs which have submitted an application to the Department of Corrections to become certified under s. 741.325, from which the respondent must choose a program in which to participate. If there are no certified batterers' intervention programs in the circuit, the court shall provide a list of acceptable programs from which the respondent must choose a program in which to participate.

6. Referring a petitioner to a certified domestic violence center. The court must provide the petitioner with a list of certified domestic violence centers in the circuit which the petitioner may contact.

7.6. Ordering such other relief as the court deems necessary for the protection of a victim of domestic violence, including injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies, as provided in this section.

(b) The terms of an injunction restraining the respondent under subparagraph (a)1. or ordering other relief for the protection of the victim under subparagraph (a)7. shall remain in effect until modified or dissolved. Any

~~relief granted by the injunction shall be granted for a fixed period not to exceed 1 year, unless upon petition of the victim the court extends the injunction for successive fixed periods not to exceed 1 year. Broad discretion resides with the court to grant an extension after considering the circumstances. Either party may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. No specific allegations are required. Such relief may be granted in addition to other civil or criminal remedies.~~

(c) A temporary or final judgment on injunction for protection against domestic violence entered pursuant to this section shall, on its face, indicate that:

1. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties of the State of Florida.

2. Law enforcement officers may use their arrest powers pursuant to s. 901.15(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.

3. The court had jurisdiction over the parties and matter under the laws of Florida and that reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process.

4. The date respondent was served with the temporary or final order, if obtainable.

(d) An injunction for protection against domestic violence entered pursuant to this section, on its face, may order that the respondent attend a batterers' intervention program as a condition of the injunction. Unless the court makes written factual findings in its judgment or order which are based on substantial evidence, stating why batterers' intervention programs would be inappropriate, the court shall order the respondent to attend a batterers' intervention program if:

1. It finds that the respondent willfully violated the ex parte injunction;

2. The respondent, in this state or any other state, has been convicted of, had adjudication withheld on, or pled nolo contendere to a crime involving violence or a threat of violence; or

3. The respondent, in this state or any other state, has had at any time a prior injunction for protection entered against the respondent after a hearing with notice.

It is ~~preferred, but not mandatory,~~ that such programs be certified under s. 741.32.

(e) The fact that a separate order of protection is granted to each opposing party shall not be legally sufficient to deny any remedy to either party or to prove that the parties are equally at fault or equally endangered.

(7)(a)1. The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy of the petition, financial affidavit, uniform child custody jurisdiction act affidavit, if any, notice

of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, to the sheriff or a law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found, who shall serve it upon the respondent as soon thereafter as possible on any day of the week and at any time of the day or night. The clerk of the court shall be responsible for furnishing to the sheriff such information on the respondent's physical description and location as is required by the department to comply with the verification procedures set forth in this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief judge of each circuit, in consultation with the appropriate sheriff, may authorize a law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction to effect service. A law enforcement agency serving injunctions pursuant to this section shall use service and verification procedures consistent with those of the sheriff.

2. When an injunction is issued, if the petitioner requests the assistance of a law enforcement agency, the court may order that an officer from the appropriate law enforcement agency accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of the dwelling or residence, or otherwise assist in the execution or service of the injunction. A law enforcement officer shall accept a copy of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, certified by the clerk of the court, from the petitioner and immediately serve it upon a respondent who has been located but not yet served.

3. All orders issued, changed, continued, extended, or vacated subsequent to the original service of documents enumerated under subparagraph 1., shall be certified by the clerk of the court and delivered to the parties at the time of the entry of the order. The parties may acknowledge receipt of such order in writing on the face of the original order. In the event a party fails or refuses to acknowledge the receipt of a certified copy of an order, the clerk shall note on the original order that service was effected. If delivery at the hearing is not possible, the clerk shall mail certified copies of the order to the parties at the last known address of each party. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. When an order is served pursuant to this subsection, the clerk shall prepare a written certification to be placed in the court file specifying the time, date, and method of service and shall notify the sheriff.

If the respondent has been served previously with the temporary injunction and has failed to appear at the initial hearing on the temporary injunction, any subsequent petition for injunction seeking an extension of time may be served on the respondent by the clerk of the court by certified mail in lieu of personal service by a law enforcement officer.

(b) There shall be created a Domestic and Repeat Violence Injunction Statewide Verification System within the Department of Law Enforcement. The department shall establish, implement, and maintain a statewide communication system capable of electronically transmitting information to and between criminal justice agencies relating to domestic violence injunctions and repeat violence injunctions issued by the courts throughout the state. Such information must include, but is not limited to, information as to the existence and status of any injunction for verification purposes.

(c)1. Within 24 hours after the court issues an injunction for protection against domestic violence or changes, continues, extends, or vacates an

injunction for protection against domestic violence, the clerk of the court must forward a certified copy of the injunction for service to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner. The injunction must be served in accordance with this subsection.

2. Within 24 hours after service of process of an injunction for protection against domestic violence upon a respondent, the law enforcement officer must forward the written proof of service of process to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner.

3. Within 24 hours after the sheriff receives a certified copy of the injunction for protection against domestic violence, the sheriff must make information relating to the injunction available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

4. Within 24 hours after the sheriff or other law enforcement officer has made service upon the respondent and the sheriff has been so notified, the sheriff must make information relating to the service available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

5. Within 24 hours after an injunction for protection against domestic violence is vacated, terminated, or otherwise rendered no longer effective by ruling of the court, the clerk of the court must notify the sheriff receiving original notification of the injunction as provided in subparagraph 2. That agency shall, within 24 hours after receiving such notification from the clerk of the court, notify the department of such action of the court.

(8)(a) The court may enforce a violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence through a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, or the state attorney may prosecute it as a criminal violation under s. 741.31. The court may enforce the respondent's compliance with the injunction through any appropriate civil and criminal remedies, including, but not limited to, a monetary assessment or a fine. The clerk of the court shall collect and receive such assessments or fines. On a monthly basis, the clerk shall transfer the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the State Treasury for deposit in the Domestic Violence Trust Fund established in s. 741.01.

(b) If the respondent is arrested by a law enforcement officer under s. 901.15(6) or for a violation of s. 741.31, the respondent shall be held in custody until brought before the court as expeditiously as possible for the purpose of enforcing the injunction and for admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903 and the applicable rules of criminal procedure, pending a hearing.

(9) The petitioner or the respondent may move the court to modify or dissolve an injunction at any time.

Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 741.31, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

741.31 Violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence.—

(4) A person who willfully violates an injunction for protection against domestic violence, issued pursuant to s. 741.30, or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315, by:

- (a) Refusing to vacate the dwelling that the parties share;
- (b) Going to the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member;
- (c) Committing an act of domestic violence against the petitioner;
- (d) Committing any other violation of the injunction through an intentional unlawful threat, word, or act to do violence to the petitioner; or
- (e) Telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner directly or indirectly, unless the injunction specifically allows indirect contact through a third party

is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 7. Section 741.315, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

741.315 Recognition of foreign protection orders.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "court of a foreign state" means a court of competent jurisdiction of a state of the United States, other than Florida; the District of Columbia; an Indian tribe; or a commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(2) Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. s. 2265, an injunction for protection against domestic violence issued by a court of a foreign state must be accorded full faith and credit by the courts of this state and enforced by a law enforcement agency as if it were the order of a Florida court issued under s. 741.30, s. 741.31, s. 784.046, or s. 784.047 and provided that the court had jurisdiction over the parties and the matter and that reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process. Ex parte foreign injunctions for protection are not eligible for enforcement under this section unless notice and opportunity to be heard have been provided within the time required by the foreign state or tribal law, and in any event within a reasonable time after the order is issued, sufficient to protect the respondent's due process rights.

(3) Notwithstanding s. 55.505 or any other provision to the contrary, neither residence in this state nor registration of foreign injunctions for protection shall be required for enforcement of this order by this state and failure to register the foreign order shall not be an impediment to its enforcement. The following registration procedure shall be available to protected persons who hold orders from a court of a foreign state.

(a) A protected person shall present a certified copy of a foreign order of protection to any sheriff in this state and request that the same be registered

in the injunction registry. However, nothing in this section shall operate to preclude the enforcement of any order of protection determined by the law enforcement officer to be valid even if the protected person does not have a certified copy of the foreign protection order. It is not necessary that the protected person register the foreign order in the protected person's county of residence. Venue is proper throughout the state. The protected person must swear by affidavit, that to the best of the protected person's knowledge and belief, the attached certified copy of the foreign order, docket number ....., issued in the state of ..... on ..... is currently in effect as written and has not been superseded by any other order and that the respondent has been given a copy of it.

(b) The sheriff shall examine the certified copy of the foreign order and register the order in the injunction registry, noting that it is a foreign order of protection. If not apparent from the face of the certified copy of the foreign order, the sheriff shall use best efforts to ascertain whether the order was served on the respondent. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall develop a special notation for foreign orders of protection. The sheriff shall assign a case number and give the protected person a receipt showing registration of the foreign order in this state. There shall be no fee for registration of a foreign order.

(c) The foreign order may also be registered by local law enforcement agencies upon receipt of the foreign order and any accompanying affidavits in the same manner described in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(4)(a) Law enforcement officers shall enforce foreign orders of protection as if they were entered by a court of this state. Upon presentation of a foreign protection order by a protected person, a law enforcement officer shall assist in enforcement of all of its terms, pursuant to federal law, except matters related to child custody, visitation, and support. As to those provisions only, enforcement may be obtained upon domestication of the foreign order pursuant to ss. 55.501-55.509 unless the foreign order is a "pickup order" or "order of bodily attachment" requiring the immediate return of a child.

(b) Before enforcing a foreign protection order, a law enforcement officer should confirm the identity of the parties present and review the order to determine that, on its face, it has not expired. Presentation of a certified or true copy of the protection order shall not be required as a condition of enforcement, provided that a conflicting certified copy is not presented by the respondent or the individual against whom enforcement is sought.

(c) A law enforcement officer shall use reasonable efforts to verify service of process.

(d) Service may be verified as follows:

1. By petitioner: Petitioner may state under oath that to the best of petitioner's knowledge, respondent was served with the order of protection because petitioner was present at time of service; respondent told petitioner he or she was served; another named person told petitioner respondent was served; or respondent told petitioner he or she knows of the content of the order and date of the return hearing.

2. By respondent: Respondent states under oath that he or she was or was not served with the order.

(e) Enforcement and arrest for violation of a foreign protection order shall be consistent with the enforcement of orders issued in this state.

(f) A law enforcement officer acting in good faith under this section and the officer's employing agency shall be immune from all liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed by reason of the officer's or agency's actions in carrying out the provisions of this section.

(g) Law enforcement shall not require petitioner to sign a registration affidavit as a condition of enforcement.

(h) A foreign order of protection shall remain in effect until the date of expiration on its face; or, if there is no expiration date on its face, a foreign order of protection shall remain in effect until expiration. If the order of protection states on its face that it is a permanent order, then there is no date of expiration.

(5) Any person who acts under this section and intentionally provides a law enforcement officer with a copy of an order of protection known by that person to be false or invalid, or who denies having been served with an order of protection when that person has been served with such order, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(6) In the event 18 U.S.C. s. 2265 is held to be unconstitutional, this section shall be null and void.

Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 784.046, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence for protective injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk of court; filing and form of petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance; statewide verification system; enforcement.—

(7) Upon notice and hearing, the court may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

(a) Enjoining the respondent from committing any acts of violence.

(b) Ordering such other relief as the court deems necessary for the protection of the petitioner, including injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies, as provided in this section.

(c) The terms of the injunction shall remain in full force and effect until modified or dissolved. Either party may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. Any relief granted by the injunction shall be granted for a fixed period not to exceed 1 year, unless upon petition of the victim the court extends the injunction for successive fixed periods not to exceed 1 year. Such relief may be granted in addition to other civil or criminal remedies.

(d) A temporary or final judgment on injunction for protection against repeat violence entered pursuant to this section shall, on its face, indicate that:

1. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties of the State of Florida.

2. Law enforcement officers may use their arrest powers pursuant to s. 901.15(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.

3. The court had jurisdiction over the parties and matter under the laws of Florida and that reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process.

4. The date that the respondent was served with the temporary or final order, if obtainable.

(11) A law enforcement officer acting in good faith under this section and the officer's employing agency shall be immune from all liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed by reason of the officer's or agency's actions in carrying out the provisions of this section.

Section 9. Section 784.047, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

784.047 Penalties for violating protective injunction against repeat violators.—A person who willfully violates an injunction for protection against repeat violence, issued pursuant to s. 784.046, or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315 by:

- (1) Refusing to vacate the dwelling that the parties share;
- (2) Going to the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member;
- (3) Committing an act of repeat violence against the petitioner;
- (4) Committing any other violation of the injunction through an intentional unlawful threat, word, or act to do violence to the petitioner; or
- (5) Telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner directly or indirectly, unless the injunction specifically allows indirect contact through a third party;

~~commits is guilty~~ of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 10. Subsections (6), (7), and (8) of section 901.15, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

901.15 When arrest by officer without warrant is lawful.—A law enforcement officer may arrest a person without a warrant when:



(6) There is probable cause to believe that the person has committed a criminal act according to s. 741.31 or s. 784.047 which violates an injunction for protection entered pursuant to s. 741.30 or s. 784.046, or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315, over the objection of the petitioner, if necessary.

(7) There is probable cause to believe that the person has committed:

- (a) An act of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28;
- (b) Child abuse, as defined in s. 827.04(2) and (3); or
- (c) Any battery upon another person, as defined in s. 784.03.

With respect to an arrest for an act of domestic violence, the decision to arrest shall not require consent of the victim or consideration of the relationship of the parties. A law enforcement officer who acts in good faith and exercises due care in making an arrest under this subsection, under s. 741.31(4) or s. 784.047, or pursuant to a foreign order of protection accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315, is immune from civil liability that otherwise might result by reason of his or her action.

(8) He has probable cause to believe that the person has knowingly committed an act of repeat violence in violation of an injunction for protection from repeat violence entered pursuant to s. 784.046 or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. 741.315.

Section 11. Except for this section, section 1, and the amendment of section 741.30(2)(a), Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1997.