

## CHAPTER 2025-126

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1049

An act relating to tampering with, harassing, or retaliating against court officials; amending s. 836.12, F.S.; defining the term “administrative assistant”; providing criminal penalties for persons who knowingly and willfully threaten specified court personnel; providing criminal penalties for persons who knowingly and willfully harass specified court personnel with certain intent; creating s. 918.115, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 918.12, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for persons who knowingly with certain intent tamper with court officials; providing criminal penalties for persons who intentionally harass court officials when such harassment has a specified outcome; providing applicability; creating s. 918.125, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for persons who retaliate against court officials for their participation in official investigations or proceedings; providing enhanced criminal penalties if the retaliation results in bodily injury; amending ss. 772.102, 895.02, and 921.0022, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 836.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

836.12 Threats or harassment.—

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

(a) “Administrative assistant” means a court employee assigned to the office of a specific general or special magistrate or a child support enforcement hearing officer.

(b) “Family member” means:

1. An individual related to another individual by blood or marriage; or
2. An individual who stands in loco parentis to another individual.

~~(c)~~(b) “Judicial assistant” means a court employee assigned to the office of a specific judge or justice responsible for providing administrative, secretarial, and clerical support to the assigned judge or justice.

~~(d)~~(e) “Law enforcement officer” means:

1. A law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10; or
2. A federal law enforcement officer as defined in s. 901.1505.

(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), any person who knowingly and willfully threatens a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, an

assistant state attorney, a firefighter, a judge, a justice, a general magistrate, a special magistrate, a child support enforcement hearing officer, an administrative assistant, a judicial assistant, a clerk of the court, clerk personnel, or an elected official, or a family member of any such person, with death or serious bodily harm commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) A person who commits a second or subsequent violation of paragraph (a) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Any person who knowingly and willfully harasses a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, an assistant state attorney, a firefighter, a judge, a justice, a general magistrate, a special magistrate, a child support enforcement hearing officer, an administrative assistant, a judicial assistant, a clerk of the court, clerk personnel, or an elected official, with the intent to intimidate or coerce such a person to perform or refrain from performing a lawful duty, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. Section 918.115, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

918.115 Definitions; ss. 918.12-918.125.—As used in ss. 918.12-918.125, the term:

(1) “Administrative assistant” means a court employee assigned to the office of a specific general or special magistrate or a child support enforcement hearing officer.

(2) “Bodily injury” means a cut, an abrasion, a bruise, a burn, or a disfigurement; physical pain; illness; impairment of the function of a bodily member, an organ, or a mental faculty; or any other injury to the body, regardless of how temporary.

(3) “Court official” means any judge, justice, general magistrate, special magistrate, grand juror, petit juror, clerk of the court, deputy clerk of the court, judicial assistant, administrative assistant, attorney, child support enforcement hearing officer, bailiff, or court deputy.

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

(5) “Judicial assistant” means a court employee assigned to the office of a specific judge or justice responsible for providing administrative, secretarial, or clerical support to the assigned judge or justice.

(6) “Misleading conduct” means any of the following:

(a) Knowingly making a false statement.

(b) Intentionally omitting information from a statement and thereby causing a portion of such statement to be misleading, or intentionally concealing a material fact and thereby creating a false impression by such statement.

(c) With the intent to mislead, knowingly submitting or inviting reliance on a writing or recording that is false, forged, altered, or otherwise lacking in authenticity.

(d) With the intent to mislead, knowingly submitting or inviting reliance on a sample, specimen, map, photograph, boundary mark, or other object that is misleading in a material respect.

(e) Knowingly using a trick, scheme, or device with the intent to mislead.

(7) “Official investigation” means any investigation instituted by a law enforcement agency or prosecuting officer of the state or a political subdivision of the state or by the Commission on Ethics.

(8) “Official proceeding” means any proceeding before a judge or court or a grand jury.

(9) “Physical force” means physical action against another person and includes confinement of a person.

Section 3. Section 918.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

918.12 Tampering with or harassing a court official jurors.—

(1) TAMPERING WITH A COURT OFFICIAL.—

(a) A person who knowingly commits any of the following acts with the intent to cause or induce any court official to obstruct the administration of justice or affect the outcome of an official investigation or official proceeding, commits the crime of tampering with a court official:

1. Uses intimidation or physical force;
2. Threatens any person or attempts to do so;
3. Engages in misleading conduct toward any person; or
4. Offers pecuniary benefit or gain to any person.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits:

1. A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the offense level of the affected official investigation or official proceeding is indeterminable.

2. A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding

affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a misdemeanor or noncriminal matter pending in county court.

3. A felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the third degree or noncriminal matter pending in circuit court.

4. A felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the second degree.

5. A felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the first degree or a felony of the first degree punishable by a term of years not exceeding life.

6. A life felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a life or capital felony.

(2) HARASSING A COURT OFFICIAL.—

(a) A person who intentionally harasses a court official and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades, or attempts to hinder, delay, prevent, or dissuade a court official from performing any of the following acts commits the crime of harassing a court official:

1. Attending an official proceeding;

2. Rendering a fair verdict based solely upon the evidence produced at an official proceeding and upon the law; or

3. Following the rules of juror behavior and deliberation as set forth by the judge.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits:

1. A misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a misdemeanor or noncriminal matter pending in county court.

2. A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the offense level of the affected official investigation or official proceeding is indeterminable.

3. A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding

affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the third degree or any noncriminal matter pending in circuit court.

4. A felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the second degree.

5. A felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the first degree.

6. A felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the official investigation or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or prosecution of a felony of the first degree punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or a prosecution of a life or capital felony.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—This section does not apply to the actions of an attorney acting in the performance of his or her duties. Any person who influences the judgment or decision of any grand or petit juror on any matter, question, cause, or proceeding which may be pending, or which may by law be brought, before him or her as such juror, with intent to obstruct the administration of justice, shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 4. Section 918.125, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

918.125 Retaliating against a court official.—

(1) A person who, with the intent to retaliate against a court official for his or her participation in an official investigation or official proceeding, commits any of the following acts commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084:

(a) Knowingly engages in any conduct that threatens to cause bodily injury to another person; or

(b) Damages the tangible property of another person or threatens to do so.

(2) If the conduct described in subsection (1) results in bodily injury, such person commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 772.102, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

772.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) “Criminal activity” means to commit, to attempt to commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or intimidate another person to commit:

(a) Any crime that is chargeable by indictment or information under the following provisions:

1. Section 210.18, relating to evasion of payment of cigarette taxes.
2. Section 414.39, relating to public assistance fraud.
3. Section 440.105 or s. 440.106, relating to workers’ compensation.
4. Part IV of chapter 501, relating to telemarketing.
5. Chapter 517, relating to securities transactions.
6. Section 550.235 or s. 550.3551, relating to dogracing and horseracing.
7. Chapter 550, relating to jai alai frontons.
8. Chapter 552, relating to the manufacture, distribution, and use of explosives.
9. Chapter 562, relating to beverage law enforcement.
10. Section 624.401, relating to transacting insurance without a certificate of authority, s. 624.437(4)(c)1., relating to operating an unauthorized multiple-employer welfare arrangement, or s. 626.902(1)(b), relating to representing or aiding an unauthorized insurer.
11. Chapter 687, relating to interest and usurious practices.
12. Section 721.08, s. 721.09, or s. 721.13, relating to real estate timeshare plans.
13. Chapter 782, relating to homicide.
14. Chapter 784, relating to assault and battery.
15. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping or human trafficking.
16. Chapter 790, relating to weapons and firearms.
17. Former s. 796.03, s. 796.04, s. 796.05, or s. 796.07, relating to prostitution.
18. Chapter 806, relating to arson.
19. Section 810.02(2)(c), relating to specified burglary of a dwelling or structure.
20. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related crimes.

21. Chapter 815, relating to computer-related crimes.
22. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices, false pretenses, fraud generally, and credit card crimes.
23. Section 827.071, relating to commercial sexual exploitation of children.
24. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting.
25. Chapter 832, relating to issuance of worthless checks and drafts.
26. Section 836.05, relating to extortion.
27. Chapter 837, relating to perjury.
28. Chapter 838, relating to bribery and misuse of public office.
29. Chapter 843, relating to obstruction of justice.
30. Section 847.011, s. 847.012, s. 847.013, s. 847.06, or s. 847.07, relating to obscene literature and profanity.
31. Section 849.09, s. 849.14, s. 849.15, s. 849.23, or s. 849.25, relating to gambling.
32. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and control.
33. Section 914.22 or s. 914.23, relating to witnesses, victims, or informants.
34. Section 918.12, s. 918.125, or s. 918.13, relating to tampering with or harassing court officials, retaliating against court officials, jurors and tampering with evidence.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 895.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

895.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 895.01-895.08, the term:

(8) “Racketeering activity” means to commit, to attempt to commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or intimidate another person to commit:

(a) Any crime that is chargeable by petition, indictment, or information under the following provisions of the Florida Statutes:

1. Section 104.155(2), relating to aiding or soliciting a noncitizen in voting.
2. Section 210.18, relating to evasion of payment of cigarette taxes.

3. Section 316.1935, relating to fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer and aggravated fleeing or eluding.

4. Chapter 379, relating to the illegal sale, purchase, collection, harvest, capture, or possession of wild animal life, freshwater aquatic life, or marine life, and related crimes.

5. Section 403.727(3)(b), relating to environmental control.

6. Section 409.920 or s. 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.

7. Section 414.39, relating to public assistance fraud.

8. Section 440.105 or s. 440.106, relating to workers' compensation.

9. Section 443.071(4), relating to creation of a fictitious employer scheme to commit reemployment assistance fraud.

10. Section 465.0161, relating to distribution of medicinal drugs without a permit as an Internet pharmacy.

11. Section 499.0051, relating to crimes involving contraband, adulterated, or misbranded drugs.

12. Part IV of chapter 501, relating to telemarketing.

13. Chapter 517, relating to sale of securities and investor protection.

14. Section 550.235 or s. 550.3551, relating to dogracing and horse-racing.

15. Chapter 550, relating to jai alai frontons.

16. Section 551.109, relating to slot machine gaming.

17. Chapter 552, relating to the manufacture, distribution, and use of explosives.

18. Chapter 560, relating to money transmitters, if the violation is punishable as a felony.

19. Chapter 562, relating to beverage law enforcement.

20. Section 624.401, relating to transacting insurance without a certificate of authority, s. 624.437(4)(c)1., relating to operating an unauthorized multiple-employer welfare arrangement, or s. 626.902(1)(b), relating to representing or aiding an unauthorized insurer.

21. Section 655.50, relating to reports of currency transactions, when such violation is punishable as a felony.

22. Chapter 687, relating to interest and usurious practices.



23. Section 721.08, s. 721.09, or s. 721.13, relating to real estate timeshare plans.

24. Section 775.13(5)(b), relating to registration of persons found to have committed any offense for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a criminal gang.

25. Section 777.03, relating to commission of crimes by accessories after the fact.

26. Chapter 782, relating to homicide.

27. Chapter 784, relating to assault and battery.

28. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, human smuggling, or human trafficking.

29. Chapter 790, relating to weapons and firearms.

30. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery, but only if such crime was committed with the intent to benefit, promote, or further the interests of a criminal gang, or for the purpose of increasing a criminal gang member's own standing or position within a criminal gang.

31. Former s. 796.03, former s. 796.035, s. 796.04, s. 796.05, or s. 796.07, relating to prostitution.

32. Chapter 806, relating to arson and criminal mischief.

33. Chapter 810, relating to burglary and trespass.

34. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related crimes.

35. Chapter 815, relating to computer-related crimes.

36. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices, false pretenses, fraud generally, credit card crimes, and patient brokering.

37. Chapter 825, relating to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult.

38. Section 827.071, relating to commercial sexual exploitation of children.

39. Section 828.122, relating to fighting or baiting animals.

40. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting.

41. Chapter 832, relating to issuance of worthless checks and drafts.

42. Section 836.05, relating to extortion.

43. Chapter 837, relating to perjury.

- 44. Chapter 838, relating to bribery and misuse of public office.
- 45. Chapter 843, relating to obstruction of justice.
- 46. Section 847.011, s. 847.012, s. 847.013, s. 847.06, or s. 847.07, relating to obscene literature and profanity.
- 47. Chapter 849, relating to gambling, lottery, gambling or gaming devices, slot machines, or any of the provisions within that chapter.
- 48. Chapter 874, relating to criminal gangs.
- 49. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and control.
- 50. Chapter 896, relating to offenses related to financial transactions.
- 51. Sections 914.22 and 914.23, relating to tampering with or harassing a witness, victim, or informant, and retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant.
- 52. Sections 918.12, 918.125, and 918.13, relating to tampering with or harassing court official, retaliating against court officials, jurors and tampering with evidence.

Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.—

(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

(d) LEVEL 4

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
104.155	3rd	Unqualified noncitizen electors voting; aiding or soliciting noncitizen electors in voting.
316.1935(3)(a)	2nd	Driving at high speed or with wanton disregard for safety while fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer who is in a patrol vehicle with siren and lights activated.
499.0051(1)	3rd	Failure to maintain or deliver transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statements.
499.0051(5)	2nd	Knowing sale or delivery, or possession with intent to sell, contraband prescription drugs.
517.07(1)	3rd	Failure to register securities.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
517.12(1)	3rd	Failure of dealer or associated person of a dealer of securities to register.
784.031	3rd	Battery by strangulation.
784.07(2)(b)	3rd	Battery of law enforcement officer, firefighter, etc.
784.074(1)(c)	3rd	Battery of sexually violent predators facility staff.
784.075	3rd	Battery on detention or commitment facility staff.
784.078	3rd	Battery of facility employee by throwing, tossing, or expelling certain fluids or materials.
784.08(2)(c)	3rd	Battery on a person 65 years of age or older.
784.081(3)	3rd	Battery on specified official or employee.
784.082(3)	3rd	Battery by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
784.083(3)	3rd	Battery on code inspector.
784.085	3rd	Battery of child by throwing, tossing, projecting, or expelling certain fluids or materials.
787.03(1)	3rd	Interference with custody; wrongly takes minor from appointed guardian.
787.04(2)	3rd	Take, entice, or remove child beyond state limits with criminal intent pending custody proceedings.
787.04(3)	3rd	Carrying child beyond state lines with criminal intent to avoid producing child at custody hearing or delivering to designated person.
787.07	3rd	Human smuggling.
790.115(1)	3rd	Exhibiting firearm or weapon within 1,000 feet of a school.
790.115(2)(b)	3rd	Possessing electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon on school property.
790.115(2)(c)	3rd	Possessing firearm on school property.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
794.051(1)	3rd	Indecent, lewd, or lascivious touching of certain minors.
800.04(7)(c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition; offender less than 18 years.
806.135	2nd	Destroying or demolishing a memorial or historic property.
810.02(4)(a)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary, of an unoccupied structure; unarmed; no assault or battery.
810.02(4)(b)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary, of an unoccupied conveyance; unarmed; no assault or battery.
810.06	3rd	Burglary; possession of tools.
810.08(2)(c)	3rd	Trespass on property, armed with firearm or dangerous weapon.
810.145(3)(b)	3rd	Digital voyeurism dissemination.
812.014(2)(c)3.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree \$10,000 or more but less than \$20,000.
812.014 (2)(c)4. & 6.-10.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; specified items.
812.014(2)(d)2.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; \$750 or more taken from dwelling or its unenclosed curtilage.
812.014(2)(e)3.	3rd	Petit theft, 1st degree; less than \$40 taken from dwelling or its unenclosed curtilage with two or more prior theft convictions.
812.0195(2)	3rd	Dealing in stolen property by use of the Internet; property stolen \$300 or more.
817.505(4)(a)	3rd	Patient brokering.
817.563(1)	3rd	Sell or deliver substance other than controlled substance agreed upon, excluding s. 893.03(5) drugs.
817.568(2)(a)	3rd	Fraudulent use of personal identification information.
817.5695(3)(c)	3rd	Exploitation of person 65 years of age or older, value less than \$10,000.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
817.625(2)(a)	3rd	Fraudulent use of scanning device, skimming device, or reencoder.
817.625(2)(c)	3rd	Possess, sell, or deliver skimming device.
828.125(1)	2nd	Kill, maim, or cause great bodily harm or permanent breeding disability to any registered horse or cattle.
836.14(2)	3rd	Person who commits theft of a sexually explicit image with intent to promote it.
836.14(3)	3rd	Person who willfully possesses a sexually explicit image with certain knowledge, intent, and purpose.
837.02(1)	3rd	Perjury in official proceedings.
837.021(1)	3rd	Make contradictory statements in official proceedings.
838.022	3rd	Official misconduct.
839.13(2)(a)	3rd	Falsifying records of an individual in the care and custody of a state agency.
839.13(2)(c)	3rd	Falsifying records of the Department of Children and Families.
843.021	3rd	Possession of a concealed handcuff key by a person in custody.
843.025	3rd	Deprive law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer of means of protection or communication.
843.15(1)(a)	3rd	Failure to appear while on bail for felony (bond estreature or bond jumping).
843.19(2)	2nd	Injure, disable, or kill police, fire, or SAR canine or police horse.
847.0135(5)(c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition using computer; offender less than 18 years.
870.01(3)	2nd	Aggravated rioting.
870.01(5)	2nd	Aggravated inciting a riot.
874.05(1)(a)	3rd	Encouraging or recruiting another to join a criminal gang.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
893.13(2)(a)1.	2nd	Purchase of cocaine (or other s. 893.03(1)(a), (b), or (d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)5. drugs).
914.14(2)	3rd	Witnesses accepting bribes.
914.22(1)	3rd	Force, threaten, etc., witness, victim, or informant.
914.23(2)	3rd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, no bodily injury.
916.1085 (2)(c)1.	3rd	Introduction of specified contraband into certain DCF facilities.
918.12	<del>3rd</del>	<del>Tampering with jurors.</del>
934.215	3rd	Use of two-way communications device to facilitate commission of a crime.
944.47(1)(a)6.	3rd	Introduction of contraband (cellular telephone or other portable communication device) into correctional institution.
951.22(1)(h), (j) & (k)	3rd	Intoxicating drug, instrumentality or other device to aid escape, or cellular telephone or other portable communication device introduced into county detention facility.

Section 8. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2025.