

SENATE BILL NO. 1726

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CARTER.

7307S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal sections 455.010, 455.035, and 455.513, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to orders of protection.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 455.010, 455.035, and 455.513, RSMo,
2 are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to
3 be known as sections 455.010, 455.035, and 455.513, to read as
4 follows:

455.010. As used in this chapter, unless the context
2 clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Abuse", includes but is not limited to the
4 occurrence of any of the following acts, attempts or threats
5 against a person who may be protected pursuant to this
6 chapter, except abuse shall not include abuse inflicted on a
7 child by accidental means by an adult household member or
8 discipline of a child, including spanking, in a reasonable
9 manner:

10 (a) "Abusing a pet", purposely or knowingly causing,
11 attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury
12 to a pet with the intent to control, punish, intimidate, or
13 distress the petitioner;

14 (b) "Assault", purposely or knowingly placing or
15 attempting to place another in fear of physical harm;

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

16 (c) "Battery", purposely or knowingly causing physical
17 harm to another with or without a deadly weapon;

18 (d) "Coercion", compelling another by force or threat
19 of force to engage in conduct from which the latter has a
20 right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the
21 person has a right to engage;

22 (e) "Harassment", engaging in a purposeful or knowing
23 course of conduct involving more than one incident that
24 alarms or causes distress to an adult or child and serves no
25 legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as
26 would cause a reasonable adult or child to suffer
27 substantial emotional distress and must actually cause
28 substantial emotional distress to the petitioner or child.
29 Such conduct might include, but is not limited to:

30 a. Following another about in a public place or places;

31 b. Peering in the window or lingering outside the
32 residence of another; but does not include constitutionally
33 protected activity;

34 (f) "Sexual assault", causing or attempting to cause
35 another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force,
36 threat of force, duress, or without that person's consent;

37 (g) "Unlawful imprisonment", holding, confining,
38 detaining or abducting another person against that person's
39 will;

40 (2) "Adult", any person [seventeen] **eighteen** years of
41 age or older or otherwise emancipated;

42 (3) "Child", any person under [seventeen] **eighteen**
43 years of age unless otherwise emancipated;

44 (4) "Court", the circuit or associate circuit judge or
45 a family court commissioner;

46 (5) "Domestic violence", abuse or stalking committed
47 by a family or household member, as such terms are defined
48 in this section;

49 (6) "Ex parte order of protection", an order of
50 protection issued by the court before the respondent has
51 received notice of the petition or an opportunity to be
52 heard on it;

53 (7) "Family" or "household member", spouses, former
54 spouses, any person related by blood or marriage, persons
55 who are presently residing together or have resided together
56 in the past, any person who is or has been in a continuing
57 social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with
58 the victim, and anyone who has a child in common regardless
59 of whether they have been married or have resided together
60 at any time;

61 (8) "Full order of protection", an order of protection
62 issued after a hearing on the record where the respondent
63 has received notice of the proceedings and has had an
64 opportunity to be heard;

65 (9) "Order of protection", either an ex parte order of
66 protection or a full order of protection;

67 (10) "Pending", exists or for which a hearing date has
68 been set;

69 (11) "Pet", a living creature maintained by a
70 household member for companionship and not for commercial
71 purposes;

72 (12) "Petitioner", a family or household member who
73 has been a victim of domestic violence, or any person who
74 has been the victim of stalking or sexual assault, or a
75 person filing on behalf of a child pursuant to section
76 455.503 who has filed a verified petition pursuant to the
77 provisions of section 455.020 or section 455.505;

78 (13) "Respondent", the family or household member
79 alleged to have committed an act of domestic violence, or
80 person alleged to have committed an act of stalking or
81 sexual assault, against whom a verified petition has been
82 filed or a person served on behalf of a child pursuant to
83 section 455.503;

84 (14) "Sexual assault", as defined under subdivision
85 (1) of this section;

86 (15) "Stalking", is when any person purposely engages
87 in an unwanted course of conduct that causes alarm to
88 another person, or a person who resides together in the same
89 household with the person seeking the order of protection
90 when it is reasonable in that person's situation to have
91 been alarmed by the conduct. As used in this subdivision:

92 (a) "Alarm", to cause fear of danger of physical harm;
93 and

94 (b) "Course of conduct", two or more acts that serve
95 no legitimate purpose including, but not limited to, acts in
96 which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through a third
97 party follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or
98 communicates to a person by any action, method, or device.

 455.035. 1. Upon the filing of a verified petition
2 pursuant to sections 455.010 to 455.085 and for good cause
3 shown in the petition, the court may immediately issue an ex
4 parte order of protection. An immediate and present danger
5 of domestic violence to the petitioner or the child on whose
6 behalf the petition is filed shall constitute good cause for
7 purposes of this section. An ex parte order of protection
8 entered by the court shall take effect when entered and
9 shall remain in effect until there is valid service of
10 process and a hearing is held on the motion. The court
11 shall deny the ex parte order and dismiss the petition if

12 the petitioner is not authorized to seek relief pursuant to
13 section 455.020.

14 2. Failure to serve an ex parte order of protection on
15 the respondent shall not affect the validity or
16 enforceability of such order. If the respondent is less
17 than [seventeen] **eighteen** years of age, unless otherwise
18 emancipated, service of process shall be made upon a
19 custodial parent or guardian of the respondent, or upon a
20 guardian ad litem appointed by the court, requiring that the
21 person appear and bring the respondent before the court at
22 the time and place stated.

23 3. If an ex parte order is entered and the respondent
24 is less than [seventeen] **eighteen** years of age, the court
25 shall transfer the case to juvenile court for a hearing on a
26 full order of protection. The court shall appoint a
27 guardian ad litem for any such respondent not represented by
28 a parent or guardian.

455.513. 1. The court may immediately issue an ex
2 parte order of protection upon the filing of a verified
3 petition under sections 455.500 to 455.538, for good cause
4 shown in the petition, and upon finding that:

5 (1) No prior order regarding custody involving the
6 respondent and the child is pending or has been made; or

7 (2) The respondent is less than [seventeen] **eighteen**
8 years of age.

9 An immediate and present danger of domestic violence,
10 including danger to the child's pet, stalking, or sexual
11 assault to a child shall constitute good cause for purposes
12 of this section. An ex parte order of protection entered by
13 the court shall be in effect until the time of the hearing.
14 The court shall deny the ex parte order and dismiss the

15 petition if the petitioner is not authorized to seek relief
16 pursuant to section 455.505.

17 2. Upon the entry of the ex parte order of protection,
18 the court shall enter its order appointing a guardian ad
19 litem or court-appointed special advocate to represent the
20 child victim.

21 3. If the allegations in the petition would give rise
22 to jurisdiction under section 211.031, the court may direct
23 the children's division to conduct an investigation and to
24 provide appropriate services. The division shall submit a
25 written investigative report to the court and to the
26 juvenile officer within thirty days of being ordered to do
27 so. The report shall be made available to the parties and
28 the guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate.

29 4. If the allegations in the petition would give rise
30 to jurisdiction under section 211.031 because the respondent
31 is less than **[seventeen] eighteen** years of age, the court
32 may issue an ex parte order and shall transfer the case to
33 juvenile court for a hearing on a full order of protection.
34 Service of process shall be made pursuant to section 455.035.

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