

CIVIL STALKING AMENDMENTS

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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This act modifies the Code of Criminal Procedure to create a civil stalking injunction and a procedure for having one issued by a court. This act provides for a petition, hearing requirements for both parties, and allows for renewal of the injunction under certain conditions. This act takes effect on July 1, 2001.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

76-5-106.5, as last amended by Chapter 49, Laws of Utah 2000

77-3-1, as enacted by Chapter 15, Laws of Utah 1980

ENACTS:

77-3a-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

77-3a-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

77-3a-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **76-5-106.5** is amended to read:

76-5-106.5. Definitions -- Stalking -- Injunction -- Hearing.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Course of conduct" means repeatedly maintaining a visual or physical proximity to a person or repeatedly conveying verbal or written threats or threats implied by conduct or a combination thereof directed at or toward a person.

(b) "Immediate family" means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or any other person who regularly resides in the household or who regularly resided in the household within the prior six months.

(c) "Repeatedly" means on two or more occasions.

(2) A person is guilty of stalking who:

(a) intentionally or knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person:

(i) to fear bodily injury to himself or a member of his immediate family; or

(ii) to suffer emotional distress to himself or a member of his immediate family;

(b) has knowledge or should have knowledge that the specific person:

(i) will be placed in reasonable fear of bodily injury to himself or a member of his immediate family; or

(ii) will suffer emotional distress or a member of his immediate family will suffer emotional distress; and

(c) whose conduct:

(i) induces fear in the specific person of bodily injury to himself or a member of his immediate family; or

(ii) causes emotional distress in the specific person or a member of his immediate family.

(3) A person is also guilty of stalking who intentionally or knowingly violates a stalking injunction issued pursuant to Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions, or intentionally or knowingly violates a permanent criminal stalking injunction issued pursuant to this section.

(4) Stalking is a class A misdemeanor:

(a) upon the offender's first violation of Subsection (2); or

(b) if the offender violated a stalking injunction issued pursuant to Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions.

(5) Stalking is a third degree felony if the offender:

(a) has been previously convicted of an offense of stalking;

(b) has been convicted in another jurisdiction of an offense that is substantially similar to the offense of stalking;

(c) has been previously convicted of any felony offense in Utah or of any crime in another jurisdiction which if committed in Utah would be a felony, in which the victim of the stalking or a member of the victim's immediate family was also a victim of the previous felony offense; or

(d) violated a permanent criminal stalking injunction issued pursuant to Subsection (7).

(6) Stalking is a felony of the second degree if the offender:

(a) used a dangerous weapon as defined in Section 76-1-601 or used other means or force likely to produce death or serious bodily injury, in the commission of the crime of stalking;

(b) has been previously convicted two or more times of the offense of stalking;

(c) has been convicted two or more times in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions of offenses that are substantially similar to the offense of stalking;

(d) has been convicted two or more times, in any combination, of offenses under Subsection (5); or

(e) has been previously convicted two or more times of felony offenses in Utah or of crimes in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions which, if committed in Utah, would be felonies, in which the victim of the stalking was also a victim of the previous felony offenses.

(7) A conviction for stalking or a plea accepted by the court and held in abeyance for a period of time shall operate as an application for a permanent criminal stalking injunction limiting the contact of the defendant and the victim.

(a) A permanent criminal stalking injunction shall be issued without a hearing unless the defendant requests a hearing at the time of the verdict, finding, or plea of guilty, guilty and mentally ill, plea of no contest, or acceptance of plea in abeyance. The court shall give the defendant notice of his right to request a hearing.

(i) If the defendant requests a hearing, it shall be held at the time of the verdict, finding, or plea of guilty, guilty and mentally ill, plea of no contest, or acceptance of plea in abeyance unless the victim requests otherwise, or for good cause.

(ii) If the verdict, finding, or plea of guilty, guilty and mentally ill, plea of no contest, or acceptance of plea in abeyance was entered in a justice court, a certified copy of the judgment and conviction or a certified copy of the court's order holding the plea in abeyance must be filed by the victim in the district court as an application and request for hearing for a permanent criminal stalking injunction.

(b) A permanent criminal stalking injunction may grant the following relief:

(i) an order restraining the defendant from entering the residence, property, school, or place of employment of the victim and requiring the defendant to stay away from the victim and members of the victim's immediate family or household and to stay away from any specified place that is named in the order and is frequented regularly by the victim; and

(ii) an order restraining the defendant from making contact with the victim, including an order forbidding the defendant from personally or through an agent initiating any communication likely to cause annoyance or alarm, including personal, written, or telephone contact with the victim, the victim's employers, employees, fellow workers, or others with whom communication would be likely to cause annoyance or alarm to the victim.

(c) A permanent criminal stalking injunction may be dissolved upon application of the victim to the court which granted the order.

(d) Notice of permanent criminal stalking injunctions issued pursuant to this section shall be sent by the court to the statewide warrants network or similar system.

(e) A permanent criminal stalking injunction issued pursuant to this section shall be effective statewide.

(f) Violation of an injunction issued pursuant to this section shall constitute an offense of stalking. Violations may be enforced in a civil action initiated by the stalking victim, a criminal action initiated by a prosecuting attorney, or both.

(g) Nothing in this section shall preclude the filing of a criminal information for stalking based on the same act which is the basis for the violation of the stalking injunction issued pursuant to Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions, or permanent criminal stalking injunction.

Section 2. Section **77-3-1** is amended to read:

77-3-1. Threatened offense -- Complaint.

A complaint that a person has threatened to commit an offense against the person or property of another, except in the case of stalking, may be made before any magistrate. Petitions alleging the commission of stalking shall be handled pursuant to Title 77, Chapter 3a, Stalking Injunctions.

Section 3. Section **77-3a-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 3a. STALKING INJUNCTIONS

77-3a-101. Civil stalking injunction -- Petition -- Ex parte injunction.

(1) As used in this chapter, "stalking" means the crime of stalking as defined in Section 76-5-106.5. Stalking injunctions may not be obtained against law enforcement officers, governmental investigators, or licensed private investigators, acting in their official capacity.

(2) Any person who believes that he or she is the victim of stalking may file a verified written petition for a civil stalking injunction against the alleged stalker with the district court in the district in which the petitioner or respondent resides or in which any of the events occurred. A minor with his or her parent or guardian may file a petition on his or her own behalf, or a parent, guardian, or custodian may file a petition on the minor's behalf.

(3) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop and adopt uniform forms for petitions, ex parte civil stalking injunctions, civil stalking injunctions, service and any other necessary forms in accordance with the provisions of this chapter on or before July 1, 2001. The office shall provide the forms to the clerk of each district court.

(a) All petitions, injunctions, ex parte injunctions, and any other necessary forms shall be issued in the form adopted by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

(b) The offices of the court clerk shall provide the forms to persons seeking to proceed under this chapter.

(4) The petition for a civil stalking injunction shall include:

(a) the name of the petitioner; however, the petitioner's address shall be disclosed to the court for purposes of service, but, on request of the petitioner, the address may not be listed on the petition, and shall be protected and maintained in a separate document or automated database, not subject to release, disclosure, or any form of public access except as ordered by the court for good cause shown;

(b) the name and address, if known, of the respondent;

(c) specific events and dates of the actions constituting the alleged stalking;

(d) if there is a prior court order concerning the same conduct, the name of the court in which the order was rendered; and

(e) corroborating evidence of stalking, which may be in the form of a police report, affidavit,

record, statement, item, letter, or any other evidence which tends to prove the allegation of stalking.

(5) If the court determines that there is reason to believe that an offense of stalking has occurred, an ex parte civil stalking injunction may be issued by the court that includes any of the following:

(a) respondent may be enjoined from committing stalking;

(b) respondent may be restrained from coming near the residence, place of employment, or school of the other party or specifically designated locations or persons;

(c) respondent may be restrained from contacting, directly or indirectly, the other party, including personal, written or telephone contact with the other party, the other party's employers, employees, fellow workers or others with whom communication would be likely to cause annoyance or alarm to the other party; or

(d) any other relief necessary or convenient for the protection of the petitioner and other specifically designated persons under the circumstances.

(6) Within ten days of service of the ex parte civil stalking injunction, the respondent is entitled to request, in writing, an evidentiary hearing on the civil stalking injunction.

(a) A hearing requested by the respondent shall be held within ten days from the date the request is filed with the court unless the court finds compelling reasons to continue the hearing. The hearing shall then be held at the earliest possible time. The burden is on the petitioner to show by a preponderance of the evidence that stalking of the petitioner by the respondent has occurred.

(b) An ex parte civil stalking injunction issued under this section shall state on its face:

(i) that the respondent is entitled to a hearing, upon written request within ten days of the service of the order;

(ii) the name and address of the district court where the request may be filed;

(iii) that if the respondent fails to request a hearing within ten days of service, the ex parte civil stalking injunction is automatically modified to a civil stalking injunction without further notice to the respondent and that the civil stalking injunction expires three years after service of the ex parte civil stalking injunction; and

(iv) that if the respondent requests, in writing, a hearing after the ten-day period after service,

the court shall set a hearing within a reasonable time from the date requested.

(7) At the hearing, the court may modify, revoke, or continue the injunction. The burden is on the petitioner to show by a preponderance of the evidence that stalking of the petitioner by the respondent has occurred.

(8) The ex parte civil stalking injunction and civil stalking injunction shall include the following statement: "Attention. This is an official court order. If you disobey this order, the court may find you in contempt. You may also be arrested and prosecuted for the crime of stalking and any other crime you may have committed in disobeying this order."

(9) The ex parte civil stalking injunction shall be served on the respondent within 90 days from the date it is signed. An ex parte civil stalking injunction is effective upon service. If no hearing is requested in writing by the respondent within ten days of service of the ex parte civil stalking injunction, the ex parte civil stalking injunction automatically becomes a civil stalking injunction without further notice to the respondent and expires three years from the date of service of the ex parte civil stalking injunction.

(10) If the respondent requests a hearing after the ten-day period after service, the court shall set a hearing within a reasonable time from the date requested. At the hearing, the burden is on the respondent to show good cause why the civil stalking injunction should be dissolved or modified.

(11) Within 24 hours after the affidavit or acceptance of service has been returned, excluding weekends and holidays, the clerk of the court from which the ex parte civil stalking injunction was issued shall enter a copy of the ex parte civil stalking injunction and proof of service or acceptance of service in the statewide network for warrants or a similar system.

(a) The effectiveness of an ex parte civil stalking injunction or civil stalking injunction shall not depend upon its entry in the statewide system and, for enforcement purposes, a certified copy of an ex parte civil stalking injunction or civil stalking injunction is presumed to be a valid existing order of the court for a period of three years from the date of service of the ex parte civil stalking injunction on the respondent.

(b) Any changes or modifications of the ex parte civil stalking injunction are effective upon service on the respondent. The original ex parte civil stalking injunction continues in effect until

service of the changed or modified civil stalking injunction on the respondent.

(12) Within 24 hours after the affidavit or acceptance of service has been returned, excluding weekends and holidays, the clerk of the court shall enter a copy of the changed or modified civil stalking injunction and proof of service or acceptance of service in the statewide network for warrants or a similar system.

(13) The ex parte civil stalking injunction or civil stalking injunction may be dissolved at any time upon application of the petitioner to the court which granted it.

(14) The court clerk shall provide, without charge, to the petitioner one certified copy of the injunction issued by the court and one certified copy of the proof of service of the injunction on the respondent. Charges may be imposed by the clerk's office for any additional copies, certified or not certified in accordance with Rule 4-202.08 of the Code of Judicial Administration.

(15) The remedies provided in this chapter for enforcement of the orders of the court are in addition to any other civil and criminal remedies available. The district court shall hear and decide all matters arising pursuant to this section.

(16) After a hearing with notice to the affected party, the court may enter an order requiring any party to pay the costs of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(17) This chapter does not apply to protective orders or ex parte protective orders issued pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 6, Cohabitant Abuse Act, or to preliminary injunctions issued pursuant to an action for dissolution of marriage or legal separation.

Section 4. Section **77-3a-102** is enacted to read:

77-3a-102. Fees -- Service of process.

(1) Ex parte civil stalking injunctions and civil stalking injunctions shall be served by a sheriff or constable.

(2) All service shall be in accordance with applicable law.

(3) Fees may not be imposed by a court clerk, constable, or law enforcement agency for:

(a) filing a petition under this chapter;

(b) obtaining an ex parte civil stalking injunction; or

(c) service of a civil stalking injunction, ex parte or otherwise.

Section 5. Section **77-3a-103** is enacted to read:

77-3a-103. Enforcement.

(1) A peace or law enforcement officer shall, without a warrant, arrest a person if the peace or law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the person has violated an ex parte civil stalking injunction or civil stalking injunction issued pursuant to this chapter or has violated a permanent criminal stalking injunction issued pursuant to Section 76-5-106.5, whether or not the violation occurred in the presence of the officer.

(2) A violation of an ex parte civil stalking injunction or of a civil stalking injunction issued pursuant to this chapter constitutes the criminal offense of stalking as defined in Section 76-5-106.5 and is also a violation of the civil stalking injunction. Violations may be enforced by a civil action initiated by the petitioner, a criminal action initiated by a prosecuting attorney, or both.

Section 6. **Effective date.**

This act takes effect on July 1, 2001.