Effective 7/1/2020

Part 1 General Provisions

78B-7-101 Title.

This chapter is known and may be cited as "Protective Orders and Stalking Injunctions."

Amended by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-102 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Abuse" means, except as provided in Section 78B-7-201, intentionally or knowingly causing or attempting to cause another individual physical harm or intentionally or knowingly placing another individual in reasonable fear of imminent physical harm.
- (2) "Affinity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-101.5.
- (3) "Civil protective order" means an order issued, subsequent to a hearing on the petition, of which the petitioner and respondent have been given notice, under:
 - (a)Part 2, Child Protective Orders;
 - (b)Part 4, Dating Violence Protective Orders;
 - (c)Part 5, Sexual Violence Protective Orders:
 - (d)Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders; or
 - (e)Part 11, Workplace Violence Protective Orders.
- (4) "Civil stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued under Part 7, Civil Stalking Injunctions.

(5)

- (a) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated individual under Section 15-2-1 or an individual who is 16 years old or older who:
 - (i) is or was a spouse of the other party;
 - (ii) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;
 - (iii) is related by blood or marriage to the other party as the individual's parent, grandparent, sibling, or any other individual related to the individual by consanguinity or affinity to the second degree;
 - (iv) has or had one or more children in common with the other party;
 - (v) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child;
 - (vi) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party; or
 - (vii) is or was in a consensual sexual relationship with the other party.
- (b) "Cohabitant" does not include:
 - (i) the relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or
 - (ii) the relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18 years old.
- (6) "Consanguinity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-101.5.
- (7) "Criminal protective order" means an order issued under Part 8, Criminal Protective Orders.
- (8) "Criminal stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued under Part 9, Criminal Stalking Injunctions.
- (9) "Court clerk" means a district court clerk.

(10)

(a) "Dating partner" means an individual who:

(i)

- (A) is an emancipated individual under Section 15-2-1 or Title 80, Chapter 7, Emancipation; or
- (B) is 18 years old or older; and
- (ii) is, or has been, in a dating relationship with the other party.
- (b) "Dating partner" does not include an intimate partner.

(11)

- (a) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature, or a relationship which has romance or intimacy as a goal by one or both parties, regardless of whether the relationship involves sexual intimacy.
- (b) "Dating relationship" does not include casual fraternization in a business, educational, or social context.
- (c) In determining, based on a totality of the circumstances, whether a dating relationship exists:
 - (i) all relevant factors shall be considered, including:
 - (A) whether the parties developed interpersonal bonding above a mere casual fraternization;
 - (B) the length of the parties' relationship;
 - (C) the nature and the frequency of the parties' interactions, including communications indicating that the parties intended to begin a dating relationship;
 - (D) the ongoing expectations of the parties, individual or jointly, with respect to the relationship;
 - (E) whether, by statement or conduct, the parties demonstrated an affirmation of their relationship to others; and
 - (F) whether other reasons exist that support or detract from a finding that a dating relationship exists; and
 - (ii) it is not necessary that all, or a particular number, of the factors described in Subsection (11) (c)(i) are found to support the existence of a dating relationship.
- (12) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.
- (13) "Ex parte civil protective order" means an order issued without notice to the respondent under:
 - (a)Part 2, Child Protective Orders;
 - (b)Part 4, Dating Violence Protective Orders;
 - (c)Part 5, Sexual Violence Protective Orders;
 - (d)Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders; or
 - (e)Part 11, Workplace Violence Protective Orders.
- (14) "Ex parte civil stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued without notice to the respondent under Part 7, Civil Stalking Injunctions.
- (15) "Foreign protection order" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-7-302.
- (16) "Household animal" means an animal that is tamed and kept as a pet.
- (17) "Intimate partner" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921.
- (18) "Law enforcement unit" or "law enforcement agency" means any public agency having general police power and charged with making arrests in connection with enforcement of the criminal statutes and ordinances of this state or any political subdivision.
- (19) "Peace officer" means those individuals specified in Title 53, Chapter 13, Peace Officer Classifications.
- (20) "Qualifying domestic violence offense" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.1.
- (21) "Respondent" means the individual against whom enforcement of a protective order is sought.
- (22) "Stalking" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-5-106.5.

Amended by Chapter 170, 2023 General Session

78B-7-104 Venue of action for ex parte civil protective orders and civil protective orders.

- (1) Except as provided in Part 2, Child Protective Orders, the district court has jurisdiction of any action for an ex parte civil protective order or civil protective order brought under this chapter.
- (2) An action for an ex parte civil protective order or civil protective order brought under this chapter shall be filed in the county where either party resides, is temporarily domiciled, or in which the action complained of took place.

Amended by Chapter 297, 2022 General Session

78B-7-105 Forms for petitions, civil protective orders, and civil stalking injunctions -- Assistance -- Fees.

(1)

- (a) The offices of the court clerk shall provide forms to an individual seeking any of the following under this chapter:
 - (i) an ex parte civil protective order:
 - (ii) a civil protective order;
 - (iii) an ex parte stalking injunction; or
 - (iv) a civil stalking injunction.
- (b) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:
 - (i) develop and adopt uniform forms for petitions and the protective orders and stalking injunctions described in Subsection (1)(a) in accordance with the provisions of this chapter; and
 - (ii) provide the forms to the clerk of each court authorized to issue the protective orders and stalking injunctions described in Subsection (1)(a).
- (2) The forms described in Subsection (1)(b) shall include:
 - (a) for a petition for an ex parte civil protective order or a civil protective order:
 - (i) a statement notifying the petitioner for an ex parte civil protective order that knowing falsification of any statement or information provided for the purpose of obtaining a civil protective order may subject the petitioner to felony prosecution;
 - (ii) language indicating the criminal penalty for a violation of an ex parte civil protective order or a civil protective order under this chapter and language stating a violation of or failure to comply with a civil provision is subject to contempt proceedings;
 - (iii) a space for information the petitioner is able to provide to facilitate identification of the respondent, including the respondent's social security number, driver license number, date of birth, address, telephone number, and physical description;
 - (iv) a space for information the petitioner is able to provide related to a proceeding for a civil protective order or a criminal protective order, civil litigation, a proceeding in juvenile court, or a criminal case involving either party, including the case name, file number, the county and state of the proceeding, and the judge's name;
 - (v) a space to indicate whether the party to be protected is an intimate partner to the respondent or a child of an intimate partner to the respondent; and
 - (vi) a space for the date on which the provisions of the protective order expire;
 - (b) for a petition under Part 4, Dating Violence Protective Orders, a space to indicate whether an order under Subsection 78B-7-404(2)(e) or (f) regarding a household animal is requested; and
 - (c) for a petition under Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders:

- (i) a separate portion of the form for those provisions, the violation of which is a criminal offense, and a separate portion for those provisions, the violation of which is a civil violation;
- (ii) a statement advising the petitioner that when a child is included in an ex parte protective order or a protective order, as part of either the criminal or the civil portion of the order, the petitioner may provide a copy of the order to the principal of the school that the child attends:
- (iii) a statement advising the petitioner that if the respondent fails to return custody of a minor child to the petitioner as ordered in a protective order, the petitioner may obtain from the court a writ of assistance; and
- (iv) a space to indicate whether an order under Subsection 78B-7-603(2)(k) or (l) regarding a household animal is requested.
- (3) If the individual seeking to proceed as a petitioner under this chapter is not represented by an attorney, the court clerk's office shall provide nonlegal assistance, including:
 - (a) the forms adopted under Subsection (1)(b);
 - (b) all other forms required to petition for a protective order or stalking injunction described in Subsection (1)(a), including forms for service;
 - (c) clerical assistance in filling out the forms and filing the petition, or if the court clerk's office designates another entity, agency, or person to provide that service, oversight over the entity, agency, or person to see that the service is provided;
 - (d) information regarding the means available for the service of process;
 - (e) a list of legal service organizations that may represent the petitioner in an action brought under this chapter, together with the telephone numbers of those organizations; and
 - (f) written information regarding the procedure for transporting a jailed or imprisoned respondent to the protective order hearing, including an explanation of the use of transportation order forms when necessary.
- (4) A court clerk, constable, or law enforcement agency may not impose a charge for:
 - (a) filing a petition under this chapter;
 - (b) obtaining an ex parte civil protective order or ex parte civil stalking injunction;
 - (c) obtaining copies, either certified or uncertified, necessary for service or delivery to law enforcement officials; or
 - (d) fees for service of:
 - (i) a petition under this chapter:
 - (ii) an ex parte civil protective order;
 - (iii) a civil protective order;
 - (iv) an ex parte civil stalking injunction; or
 - (v) a civil stalking injunction.
- (5) A petition for an ex parte civil protective order and a civil protective order shall be in writing and verified.
- (6)
 - (a) The protective orders and stalking injunctions described in Subsection (1)(a) shall be issued in the form adopted by the Administrative Office of the Courts under Subsection (1)(b).
 - (b) A civil protective order that is issued shall, if applicable, include the following language: "Respondent was afforded both notice and opportunity to be heard in the hearing that gave rise to this order. Pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, P.L. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1796, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2265, this order is valid in all the United States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, and United States territories. This order complies with the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.".

(c) An ex parte civil protective order and a civil protective order issued under Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders, shall include the following language:

"NOTICE TO PETITIONER: The court may amend or dismiss a protective order after one year if it finds that the basis for the issuance of the protective order no longer exists and the petitioner has repeatedly acted in contravention of the protective order provisions to intentionally or knowingly induce the respondent to violate the protective order, demonstrating to the court that the petitioner no longer has a reasonable fear of the respondent."

- (d) A child protective order issued under Part 2, Child Protective Orders, shall include:
 - (i) the date the order expires; and
 - (ii) a statement that the address provided by the petitioner will not be made available to the respondent.

(7)

(a)

- (i) The court clerk shall provide, without charge, to the petitioner, one certified copy of a civil stalking injunction issued by the court and one certified copy of the proof of service of the civil stalking injunction on the respondent.
- (ii) A charge may be imposed by the court clerk's office for any copies in addition to the copy described in Subsection (7)(a)(i), certified or uncertified.
- (b) An 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.".

Amended by Chapter 142, 2022 General Session

78B-7-105.5 Forms for motions, criminal protective orders, and criminal stalking injunctions.

(1)

- (a) The offices of the court clerk shall provide forms to an individual seeking any of the following under this chapter:
 - (i) a criminal protective order; or
 - (ii) a criminal stalking injunction.
- (b) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:
 - (i) develop and adopt uniform forms for motions and protective orders and stalking injunctions described in Subsection (1)(a) in accordance with the provisions of this chapter; and
 - (ii) provide the forms to the clerk of each court authorized to issue the protective orders and stalking injunctions described in Subsection (1)(a).
- (2) The forms described in Subsection (1)(b) shall include:
 - (a) language indicating the criminal penalty for a violation of a criminal protective order or criminal stalking injunction under this chapter;
 - (b) language indicating that a criminal protective order that is a continuous protective order may be modified or dismissed under this chapter; and
 - (c) a space to indicate whether the party to be protected is an intimate partner to the defendant or a child of an intimate partner to the defendant.
- (3) A criminal protective order and criminal stalking injunction shall be issued in the form adopted by the Administrative Office of the Courts under Subsection (1)(b).

(4) Except for a jail release agreement and jail release court order, a criminal protective order that is issued shall, if applicable, include the following language:

"Respondent was afforded both notice and opportunity to be heard in the hearing that gave rise to this order. Pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, P.L. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1796, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2265, this order is valid in all the United States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, and United States territories. This order complies with the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act."

Enacted by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-108 Mutual protective orders.

- (1) A court may not grant a mutual order or mutual civil protective orders to opposing parties, unless each party:
 - (a) files an independent petition against the other for a civil protective order, and both petitions are served;
 - (b) makes a showing at a due process civil protective order hearing of abuse or domestic violence committed by the other party; and
 - (c) demonstrates the abuse or domestic violence did not occur in self-defense.
- (2) If the court issues mutual civil protective orders, the court shall include specific findings of all elements of Subsection (1) in the court order justifying the entry of the court order.

(3)

- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a court may not grant a civil protective order to a petitioner who is the respondent or defendant subject to a protective order, child protective order, or ex parte child protective order:
 - (i) issued under:
 - (A)Title 77, Chapter 36, Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act;
 - (B)Title 80, Utah Juvenile Code:
 - (C)Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders; or
 - (D)Part 8, Criminal Protective Orders; or
 - (ii) enforceable under Part 3, Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.
- (b) The court may grant a civil protective order to a petitioner described in Subsection (3)(a) if:
 - (i) the court determines that the requirements of Subsection (1) are met; and

(ii)

- (A) the same court that issued the protective order, child protective order, or ex parte child protective order issues the civil protective order against the respondent; or
- (B) if the matter is before a subsequent court, the subsequent court determines it would be impractical for the original court to consider the matter or confers with the court that issued the protective order, child protective order, or ex parte child protective order.

Amended by Chapter 159, 2021 General Session Amended by Chapter 262, 2021 General Session

78B-7-109 Continuing duty to inform court of other proceedings -- Effect of other proceedings.

(1) Each party has a continuing duty to inform the court of each proceeding for a civil protective order or a criminal protective order, any civil litigation, each proceeding in juvenile court, and

each criminal case involving either party, including the case name, the file number, and the county and state of the proceeding, if that information is known by the party.

(2)

- (a) A civil protective order issued under this chapter is in addition to and not in lieu of any other available civil or criminal proceeding.
- (b) A petitioner is not barred from seeking a civil protective order because of other pending proceedings.
- (c) A court may not delay granting a civil protective order under this chapter because of the existence of a pending civil action between the parties.
- (3) A petitioner may omit the petitioner's address from all documents filed with the court under this chapter, but shall separately provide the court with a mailing address that is not to be made part of the public record, but that may be provided to a peace officer or entity for service of process.

Amended by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-113 Statewide domestic violence network -- Peace officers' duties -- Prevention of abuse in absence of order -- Limitation of liability.

(1)

(a)

- (i) Law enforcement units, the Department of Public Safety, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall utilize statewide procedures to ensure that a peace officer at the scene of an alleged violation of a civil protective order or criminal protective order has immediate access to information necessary to verify the existence and terms of that order, and other orders of the court required to be made available on the network under this chapter, Title 77, Chapter 36, Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act, or Section 77-38-3.
- (ii) The peace officers described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) shall use every reasonable means to enforce the court's order, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of this chapter, Title 77, Chapter 36, Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act, and Section 77-38-3.
- (b) The Administrative Office of the Courts, in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety and the Criminal Investigations and Technical Services Division, established in Section 53-10-103, shall provide for a single, statewide network containing:
 - (i) all civil protective orders and criminal protective orders issued by a court of this state; and
 - (ii) all other court orders or reports of court action that are required to be available on the network under this chapter, Title 77, Chapter 36, Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act, and Section 77-38-3.
- (c) The entities described in Subsection (1)(b) may utilize the same mechanism as the statewide warrant system, described in Section 53-10-208.

(d)

- (i) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(d)(ii), the Administrative Office of the Courts shall make all orders and reports required to be available on the network available within 24 hours after court action.
- (ii) If the court that issued an order that is required to be available under Subsection (1)(d)(i) is not part of the state court computer system, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall make the order and report available on the network within 72 hours after court action.
- (e) The Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Public Safety shall make the information contained in the network available to a court, law enforcement officer, or agency upon request.

- (2) When any peace officer has reason to believe a cohabitant or child of a cohabitant is being abused, or that there is a substantial likelihood of immediate danger of abuse, although no civil or criminal protective order has been issued, that officer shall use all reasonable means to prevent the abuse, including:
 - (a) remaining on the scene as long as it reasonably appears there would otherwise be danger of abuse;
 - (b) making arrangements for the victim to obtain emergency medical treatment;
 - (c) making arrangements for the victim to obtain emergency housing or shelter care;
 - (d) explaining to the victim the victim's rights in these matters;
 - (e) asking the victim to sign a written statement describing the incident of abuse; or
 - (f) arresting and taking into physical custody the abuser in accordance with the provisions of Title 77, Chapter 36, Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act.
- (3) No person or institution may be held criminally or civilly liable for the performance of, or failure to perform, any duty established by this chapter, so long as that person acted in good faith and without malice.

Amended by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-116 Full faith and credit for foreign protection orders.

(1) A foreign protection order is enforceable in this state as provided in Title 78B, Chapter 7, Part 3, Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.

(2)

- (a) A person entitled to protection under a foreign protection order may file the order in any district court by filing with the court a certified copy of the order. A filing fee may not be required.
- (b) The person filing the foreign protection order shall swear under oath in an affidavit, that to the best of the person's knowledge the order is presently in effect as written and the respondent was personally served with a copy of the order.
- (c) The affidavit described in Subsection (2)(b) shall be in the form adopted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, consistent with its responsibilities to develop and adopt forms under Section 78B-7-105.
- (d) The court where a foreign protection order is filed shall transmit a copy of the order to the statewide domestic violence network described in Section 78B-7-113.
- (e) Upon inquiry by a law enforcement agency, the clerk of the district court shall make a copy of the foreign protection order available.
- (f) After a foreign protection order is filed, the district court shall furnish a certified copy of the order to the person who filed the order.
- (g) A filed foreign protection order that is inaccurate or is not currently in effect shall be corrected or removed from the statewide domestic violence network described in Section 78B-7-113.
- (3) Law enforcement personnel may:
 - (a) rely upon a certified copy of any foreign protection order which has been provided to the peace officer by any source;
 - (b) rely on the statement of the person protected by the order that the order is in effect and the respondent was personally served with a copy of the order; or
 - (c) consider other information in determining whether there is probable cause to believe that a valid foreign protection order exists.
- (4) A violation in Utah of a foreign protection order is subject to the same penalties as the violation of a protective order issued in Utah.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-7-117 Court order for transfer of wireless telephone number.

- (1) As used in this section, "wireless service provider" means a provider of commercial mobile service under Section 332(d) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- (2) At or after the time that a court issues a sentencing protective order or continuous protective order under Section 78B-7-804 or a cohabitant abuse protective order under Section 78B-7-603, the court may order the transfer of a wireless telephone number as provided in this section, if:
 - (a) the perpetrator is the account holder for the wireless telephone number;
 - (b) the number is assigned to a telephone that is primarily used by the victim or an individual who will reside with the victim during the time that the protective order or the order of protection is in effect; and
 - (c) the victim requests transfer of the wireless telephone number.
- (3) An order transferring a wireless telephone number under this section shall:
 - (a) direct a wireless service provider to transfer the rights to, and the billing responsibility for, the wireless telephone number to the victim; and
 - (b) include the wireless telephone number to be transferred, the name of the transferee, and the name of the account holder.
- (4) A wireless service provider shall comply with an order issued under this section, unless compliance is not reasonably possible due to:
 - (a) the account holder having already terminated the account;
 - (b) differences in network technology that prevent the victim's device from functioning on the network to which the number is to be transferred;
 - (c) geographic or other service availability constraints; or
 - (d) other barriers outside the control of the wireless service provider.
- (5) A wireless service provider that fails to comply with an order issued under this section shall, within four business days after the day on which the wireless service provider receives the order, provide notice to the victim stating:
 - (a) that the wireless service provider is not able to reasonably comply with the order; and
 - (b) the reason that the wireless service provider is not able to reasonably comply with the order.
- (6) The victim has full financial responsibility for each wireless telephone number transferred to the victim by an order under this section, beginning on the day on which the wireless telephone number is transferred, including monthly service costs and costs for any mobile device associated with the wireless telephone number.
- (7) This section does not preclude a wireless service provider from applying standard requirements for account establishment to the victim when transferring financial responsibility under Subsection (6).
- (8) A wireless service provider, and any officer, employee, or agent of the wireless service provider, is not civilly liable for action taken in compliance with an order issued under this section.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-118 Construction with Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

To the extent the provisions of this chapter are more specific than the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure regarding a civil protective order the provisions of this chapter govern.

Amended by Chapter 4, 2020 Special Session 5

78B-7-119 Duties of law enforcement -- Enforcement.

A law enforcement officer shall, without a warrant, arrest an alleged perpetrator whenever there is probable cause to believe that the alleged perpetrator has violated any of the provisions of any of the following that has been served on the alleged perpetrator:

- (1) an ex parte civil protective order;
- (2) a civil protective order;
- (3) an ex parte civil stalking injunction;
- (4) a civil stalking injunction;
- (5) a criminal protective order;
- (6) a permanent criminal stalking injunction; or
- (7) a foreign protective order enforceable under Part 3, Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.

Enacted by Chapter 142, 2020 General Session

78B-7-120 Law enforcement -- Training -- Domestic violence -- Lethality assessments.

- (1) In accordance with Section 77-36-2.1, the Department of Public Safety shall:
 - (a) develop training in domestic violence responses and lethality assessment protocols that includes information on:
 - (i) recognizing the symptoms of domestic violence and trauma;
 - (ii) an evidence-based assessment to identify victims of domestic violence who may be at a high risk of being killed by a perpetrator;
 - (iii) lethality assessment protocols and interviewing techniques, including indicators of strangulation;
 - (iv) responding to the needs and concerns of a victim of domestic violence;
 - (v) delivering services to victims of domestic violence in a compassionate, sensitive, and professional manner; and
 - (vi) understanding cultural perceptions and common myths of domestic violence;
 - (b) develop and offer an online training course in domestic violence issues to all certified law enforcement officers in the state; and
 - (c) develop specific training curriculums for the trainings described in Subsections (1)(a) and (b) that include:
 - (i) information on responding to domestic violence incidents, including trauma-informed and victim-centered interview techniques;
 - (ii) lethality assessment protocols which have been demonstrated to minimize retraumatizing victims; and
 - (iii) standards for report writing.
- (2) The Peace Officer Standards and Training Division shall incorporate training in domestic violence issues into training offered to all individuals seeking certification as a peace officer.
- (3) The Department of Public Safety and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall coordinate to provide information and training on the lethality assessment protocols described in Section 77-36-2.1 to all judges, commissioners, and court staff who may encounter lethality assessment data in the courses of their duties.

Amended by Chapter 109, 2023 General Session

Amended by Chapter 447, 2023 General Session