

1                   **WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

2                                   **AMENDMENTS**

3   2023 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This bill creates a workplace violence protective order.

11   **Highlighted Provisions:**

12           This bill:

- 13           ▶ defines terms;
- 14           ▶ allows an employer to petition for a workplace violence protective order;
- 15           ▶ requires an employer to notify certain individuals when seeking a workplace  
16 violence protective order;
- 17           ▶ establishes relief a court may include as part of a workplace violence protective  
18 order;
- 19           ▶ requires a court to take certain action after issuing a workplace violence protective  
20 order;
- 21           ▶ establishes circumstances under which a court may modify or vacate a workplace  
22 violence protective order;
- 23           ▶ requires a court to set a date for a hearing on a workplace violence protective order  
24 within a certain time period;
- 25           ▶ establishes provisions related to the service, expiration, modification, and extension  
26 of a workplace violence protective order;
- 27           ▶ provides a penalty for violating a workplace violence protective order;



- 28           ▶ limits liability of an employer for seeking or failing to seek a workplace violence
- 29 protective order; and
- 30           ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

31 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

32           None

33 **Other Special Clauses:**

34           None

35 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

36 AMENDS:

37           **78B-7-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 142, 430

38 ENACTS:

39           **78B-7-1101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40           **78B-7-1102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

41           **78B-7-1103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

42           **78B-7-1104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

43           **78B-7-1105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

44           **78B-7-1106**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

45           **78B-7-1107**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

46           **78B-7-1108**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

47           **78B-7-1109**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

50           Section 1. Section **78B-7-102** is amended to read:

51           **78B-7-102. Definitions.**

52           As used in this chapter:

53           (1) "Abuse" means, except as provided in Section **78B-7-201**, intentionally or

54 knowingly causing or attempting to cause another individual physical harm or intentionally or

55 knowingly placing another individual in reasonable fear of imminent physical harm.

56           (2) "Affinity" means the same as that term is defined in Section **76-1-101.5**.

57           (3) "Civil protective order" means an order issued, subsequent to a hearing on the

58 petition, of which the petitioner and respondent have been given notice, under:

- 59 (a) Part 2, Child Protective Orders;
- 60 (b) Part 4, Dating Violence Protective Orders;
- 61 (c) Part 5, Sexual Violence Protective Orders; [or]
- 62 (d) Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders[-]; or
- 63 (e) Part 11, Workplace Violence Protective Orders.
- 64 (4) "Civil stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued under Part 7, Civil
- 65 Stalking Injunctions.
- 66 (5) (a) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated individual under Section 15-2-1 or an
- 67 individual who is 16 years old or older who:
- 68 (i) is or was a spouse of the other party;
- 69 (ii) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;
- 70 (iii) is related by blood or marriage to the other party as the individual's parent,
- 71 grandparent, sibling, or any other individual related to the individual by consanguinity or
- 72 affinity to the second degree;
- 73 (iv) has or had one or more children in common with the other party;
- 74 (v) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child;
- 75 (vi) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party; or
- 76 (vii) is or was in a consensual sexual relationship with the other party.
- 77 (b) "Cohabitant" does not include:
- 78 (i) the relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or
- 79 (ii) the relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18
- 80 years old.
- 81 (6) "Consanguinity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-101.5.
- 82 (7) "Criminal protective order" means an order issued under Part 8, Criminal Protective
- 83 Orders.
- 84 (8) "Criminal stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued under Part 9,
- 85 Criminal Stalking Injunctions.
- 86 (9) "Court clerk" means a district court clerk.
- 87 (10) (a) "Dating partner" means an individual who:
- 88 (i) (A) is an emancipated individual under Section 15-2-1 or Title 80, Chapter 7,
- 89 Emancipation; or

90 (B) is 18 years old or older; and

91 (ii) is, or has been, in a dating relationship with the other party.

92 (b) "Dating partner" does not include an intimate partner.

93 (11) (a) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship of a romantic or intimate  
94 nature, or a relationship which has romance or intimacy as a goal by one or both parties,  
95 regardless of whether the relationship involves sexual intimacy.

96 (b) "Dating relationship" does not include casual fraternization in a business,  
97 educational, or social context.

98 (c) In determining, based on a totality of the circumstances, whether a dating  
99 relationship exists:

100 (i) all relevant factors shall be considered, including:

101 (A) whether the parties developed interpersonal bonding above a mere casual  
102 fraternization;

103 (B) the length of the parties' relationship;

104 (C) the nature and the frequency of the parties' interactions, including communications  
105 indicating that the parties intended to begin a dating relationship;

106 (D) the ongoing expectations of the parties, individual or jointly, with respect to the  
107 relationship;

108 (E) whether, by statement or conduct, the parties demonstrated an affirmation of their  
109 relationship to others; and

110 (F) whether other reasons exist that support or detract from a finding that a dating  
111 relationship exists; and

112 (ii) it is not necessary that all, or a particular number, of the factors described in  
113 Subsection (11)(c)(i) are found to support the existence of a dating relationship.

114 (12) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.

115 (13) "Ex parte civil protective order" means an order issued without notice to the  
116 respondent under:

117 (a) Part 2, Child Protective Orders;

118 (b) Part 4, Dating Violence Protective Orders;

119 (c) Part 5, Sexual Violence Protective Orders; ~~or~~

120 (d) Part 6, Cohabitant Abuse Protective Orders~~[-];~~ or

121 (e) Part 11, Workplace Violence Protective Orders.

122 (14) "Ex parte civil stalking injunction" means a stalking injunction issued without  
123 notice to the respondent under Part 7, Civil Stalking Injunctions.

124 (15) "Foreign protection order" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
125 78B-7-302.

126 (16) "Household animal" means an animal that is tamed and kept as a pet.

127 (17) "Intimate partner" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921.

128 (18) "Law enforcement unit" or "law enforcement agency" means any public agency  
129 having general police power and charged with making arrests in connection with enforcement  
130 of the criminal statutes and ordinances of this state or any political subdivision.

131 (19) "Peace officer" means those individuals specified in Title 53, Chapter 13, Peace  
132 Officer Classifications.

133 (20) "Qualifying domestic violence offense" means the same as that term is defined in  
134 Section 77-36-1.1.

135 (21) "Respondent" means the individual against whom enforcement of a protective  
136 order is sought.

137 (22) "Stalking" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-5-106.5.

138 Section 2. Section 78B-7-1101 is enacted to read:

139 **Part 11. Workplace Violence Protective Orders**

140 **78B-7-1101. Definitions.**

141 As used in this part:

142 (1) "Employer" means a person who:

143 (a) employs an individual in this state; or

144 (b) contracts with an independent contractor in this state.

145 (2) "Ex parte workplace violence protective order" means an order issued without  
146 notice to the respondent under this part.

147 (3) "Protective order" means:

148 (a) a workplace violence protective order; or

149 (b) an ex parte workplace violence protective order.

150 (4) (a) "Worker" means an individual in the service of an employer for compensation.

151 (b) "Worker" includes an independent contractor who contracts with an employer.

152 (5) "Workplace violence" means knowingly causing or threatening to cause bodily  
153 injury to, or damage to the property of, a person, if:

154 (a) the person is:

155 (i) an employer;

156 (ii) a worker performing the worker's duties as a worker; or

157 (iii) present at the workplace of an employer; and

158 (b) (i) the action would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened,  
159 intimidated, or harassed; or

160 (ii) the threat:

161 (A) would cause a reasonable person to fear that the threat will be carried out; and

162 (B) if carried out, would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened,  
163 intimidated, or harassed.

164 (6) "Workplace violence protective order" means an order issued under this part after a  
165 hearing on the petition, of which the petitioner and respondent have been given notice.

166 Section 3. Section **78B-7-1102** is enacted to read:

167 **78B-7-1102. Petition for a workplace violence protective order -- Notice to known**  
168 **targets of workplace violence.**

169 (1) An employer may seek, or authorize an agent to seek, a protective order in  
170 accordance with this part, if the employer reasonably believes workplace violence has occurred  
171 against the employer, a worker of the employer, or a person while the person was present at the  
172 workplace of the employer.

173 (2) If an employer seeking a workplace violence protective order as described in  
174 Subsection (1) has knowledge that a specific individual is the target of workplace violence, the  
175 employer shall make a good faith effort to notify the individual that the employer is seeking a  
176 workplace violence protective order.

177 Section 4. Section **78B-7-1103** is enacted to read:

178 **78B-7-1103. Workplace violence protective orders -- Ex parte workplace violence**  
179 **protective orders -- Modification of orders.**

180 (1) If it appears from a petition for a protective order or a petition to modify an existing  
181 protective order that workplace violence has occurred, the court may:

182 (a) without notice, immediately issue an ex parte workplace violence protective order

183 against the respondent or modify an existing workplace violence protective order ex parte, if  
184 necessary to protect the petitioner or any party named in the petition; or

185 (b) upon notice to the respondent, issue a workplace violence protective order or  
186 modify a workplace violence protective order after a hearing, regardless of whether the  
187 respondent appears.

188 (2) The court may grant the following relief with or without notice in a protective order  
189 or in a modification to a protective order:

190 (a) enjoin the respondent from committing workplace violence;

191 (b) enjoin the respondent from harassing the petitioner, a worker of the petitioner while  
192 performing the worker's duties as a worker, or another person while the person is present at the  
193 workplace of the petitioner;

194 (c) prohibit the respondent from telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating  
195 with the petitioner, a worker of the petitioner while performing the worker's duties as a worker,  
196 or another person while the person is present at the workplace of the petitioner; or

197 (d) order that the respondent is excluded and shall stay away from the petitioner's  
198 workplace.

199 (3) The court may grant the following relief in a protective order or in a modification to  
200 a protective order, after notice and a hearing, regardless of whether the respondent appears:

201 (a) any relief described in Subsection (2); or

202 (b) subject to the conditions described in Subsection [78B-7-404\(5\)](#), the relief described  
203 in Subsection [78B-7-404\(3\)\(b\)](#) upon a finding that the respondent poses a serious threat of  
204 harm to the petitioner, a worker of the petitioner while performing the worker's duties as a  
205 worker, or another person while the person is present at the workplace of the employer.

206 (4) After the court issues a protective order, the court shall:

207 (a) as soon as possible, deliver the order to the county sheriff for service of process;

208 (b) transmit electronically, by the end of the business day after the day on which the  
209 court issues the protective order, a copy of the protective order to the local law enforcement  
210 agency that the petitioner designates; and

211 (c) transmit a copy of the protective order in the same manner as described in Section  
212 [78B-7-113](#).

213 (5) The court may modify or vacate a protective order after notice and hearing, if the

214 petitioner:

215 (a) (i) is personally served with notice of the hearing, as provided in the Utah Rules of  
216 Civil Procedure; and

217 (ii) appears before the court to give specific consent to the modification or vacation of  
218 the provisions of the protective order; or

219 (b) submits an affidavit agreeing to the modification or vacation of the provisions of  
220 the protective order.

221 Section 5. Section **78B-7-1104** is enacted to read:

222 **78B-7-1104. Hearings -- Expiration.**

223 (1) (a) A court shall set a date for a hearing on the petition to be held within 21 days  
224 after the day on which the court issues an ex parte workplace violence protective order.

225 (b) If, at the hearing described in Subsection (1)(a), the court does not issue a  
226 workplace violence protective order, the ex parte workplace violence protective order expires  
227 on the day on which the hearing is held, unless the court extends the ex parte workplace  
228 violence protective order.

229 (c) Subject to Subsection (1)(d), a court may not extend an ex parte workplace violence  
230 protective order beyond 21 days after the day on which the court issues the ex parte workplace  
231 violence protective order, unless:

232 (i) a party is unable to be present at the hearing for good cause, established by the  
233 party's sworn affidavit;

234 (ii) the respondent has not been served; or

235 (iii) exigent circumstances exist.

236 (d) If, at the hearing described in Subsection (1)(a), the court issues a workplace  
237 violence protective order, the ex parte workplace violence protective order remains in effect  
238 until service of process of the workplace violence protective order is completed.

239 (e) A workplace violence protective order issued after notice and a hearing remains in  
240 effect for a period the court determines, not to exceed 18 months after the day on which the  
241 court issues the order, unless the order is extended in accordance with Section [78B-7-1105](#).

242 (f) (i) If the hearing on the petition is heard by a commissioner, either the petitioner or  
243 respondent may file an objection within 10 calendar days after the day on which the  
244 commissioner enters the recommended order.



245 (ii) If a party files an objection as described in Subsection (1)(f)(i), the judge shall hold  
246 a hearing on the objection within 21 days after the day on which the party files the objection.

247 (2) (a) If a court denies a petition for an ex parte workplace violence protective order or  
248 a petition to modify a workplace violence protective order ex parte, the petitioner may, within  
249 five days after the day on which the court denies the petition, request a hearing.

250 (b) If the petitioner requests a hearing as described in Subsection (2)(a), the court shall:

251 (i) set a hearing to be held within 21 days after the day on which the petitioner makes  
252 the request; and

253 (ii) notify and serve the respondent.

254 Section 6. Section **78B-7-1105** is enacted to read:

255 **78B-7-1105. Extension.**

256 (1) A workplace violence protective order expires automatically, unless the petitioner:

257 (a) files a motion before the day on which the workplace violence protective order  
258 expires; and

259 (b) demonstrates that:

260 (i) there is a substantial likelihood that the petitioner, a worker of the petitioner while  
261 performing the worker's duties as a worker, or another person while the person is present at the  
262 workplace of the petitioner will be subjected to workplace violence; or

263 (ii) the respondent committed or was convicted of a violation of the workplace  
264 harassment protective order that the petitioner requests be extended.

265 (2) (a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), if a court grants a motion described in Subsection  
266 (1)(a), the court shall set a new date on which the workplace violence protective order expires.

267 (b) A court may not extend a workplace violence protective order for more than 18  
268 months after the day on which the court issues the order for extension.

269 (3) After the day on which the court issues an extension of a workplace violence  
270 protective order, the court shall take the action described in Subsection [78B-7-1103\(4\)](#).

271 (4) This part does not prohibit a petitioner from seeking another protective order after  
272 the day on which the petitioner's protective order expires.

273 Section 7. Section **78B-7-1106** is enacted to read:

274 **78B-7-1106. Service of process.**

275 (1) The county sheriff that receives an order from a court under Subsection

276 78B-7-1103(4) or 78B-7-1105(3), shall:

277 (a) provide expedited service for the protective order; and

278 (b) after the protective order is served, transmit verification of service of process to the  
279 statewide network described in Section 78B-7-113.

280 (2) This section does not prohibit another law enforcement agency from providing  
281 service of process if the law enforcement agency:

282 (a) has contact with the respondent; or

283 (b) determines that, under the circumstances, providing service of process on the  
284 respondent is in the best interest of the petitioner.

285 Section 8. Section **78B-7-1107** is enacted to read:

286 **78B-7-1107. Penalties.**

287 A violation of a protective order issued under this part is a class A misdemeanor.

288 Section 9. Section **78B-7-1108** is enacted to read:

289 **78B-7-1108. Employer liability.**

290 (1) An employer is immune from civil liability for:

291 (a) seeking a workplace violence protective order, if the employer acts in good faith in  
292 seeking the order; or

293 (b) failing to seek a workplace violence protective order.

294 (2) An employer's action or statement made under this part:

295 (a) is not an admission of any fact; and

296 (b) may be used for purposes of impeachment.

297 Section 10. Section **78B-7-1109** is enacted to read:

298 **78B-7-1109. Limitations of part.**

299 This part does not:

300 (1) modify the duty of an employer to provide a safe workplace for the workers of the  
301 employer and persons present at the workplace of the employer;

302 (2) prohibit a person from engaging in constitutionally protected exercise of free  
303 speech, including speech involving labor disputes concerning organized labor; or

304 (3) prohibit a person from engaging in an activity that is part of a labor dispute.