

CHAPTER 518B

DOMESTIC ABUSE

518B.01 Domestic abuse act.

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[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 4. Order for protection. There shall exist an action known as a petition for an order for protection in cases of domestic abuse.

(a) A petition for relief under this section may be made by any family or household member personally or on behalf of minor family or household members.

(b) A petition for relief shall allege the existence of domestic abuse, and shall be accompanied by an affidavit made under oath stating the specific facts and circumstances from which relief is sought.

(c) A petition for relief may be made regardless of whether or not there is a pending lawsuit, complaint, petition or other action between the parties.

(d) The court shall provide simplified forms and clerical assistance to help with the writing and filing of a petition under this section.

(e) The court shall advise a petitioner under clause (d) of the right to file a motion and affidavit and to sue in forma pauperis pursuant to section 563.01 and shall assist with the writing and filing of the motion and affidavit.

(f) The court shall advise a petitioner under clause (d) of the right to serve the respondent by published notice under subdivision 5, paragraph (b), if the respondent is avoiding personal service by concealment or otherwise, and shall assist with the writing and filing of the affidavit.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 6. Relief by the court. (a) Upon notice and hearing, the court may provide relief as follows:

(1) restrain the abusing party from committing acts of domestic abuse;

(2) exclude the abusing party from the dwelling which the parties share or from the residence of the petitioner;

(3) award temporary custody or establish temporary visitation with regard to minor children of the parties on a basis which gives primary consideration to the safety of the victim and the children. If the court finds that the safety of the victim or the children will be jeopardized by unsupervised or unrestricted visitation, the court shall condition or restrict visitation as to time, place, duration, or supervision, or deny visitation entirely, as needed to guard the safety of the victim and the children. The court's deliberation under this subdivision shall in no way delay the issuance of an order for protection granting other reliefs provided for in Laws 1985, chapter 195;

(4) on the same basis as is provided in chapter 518, establish temporary support for minor children or a spouse, and order the withholding of support from the income of the person obligated to pay the support according to chapter 518;

(5) provide upon request of the petitioner counseling or other social services for the parties, if married, or if there are minor children;

(6) order the abusing party to participate in treatment or counseling services;

(7) award temporary use and possession of property and restrain one or both parties from transferring, encumbering, concealing, or disposing of property except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life, and to account to the court for all such transfers, encumbrances, dispositions, and expenditures made after the order is served or communicated to the party restrained in open court;

(8) order, in its discretion, other relief as it deems necessary for the protection of a family or household member, including orders or directives to the sheriff or constable, as provided by this section.

(b) Any relief granted by the order for protection shall be for a fixed period not to exceed one year, except when the court determines a longer fixed period is appropriate.

(c) An order granting the relief authorized in paragraph (a), clause (1), may not be vacated or modified in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation, except that the court may hear a motion for modification of an order for protection concurrently with a proceeding for dissolution of marriage upon notice of motion and motion. The notice required by court rule shall not be waived. If the proceedings are consolidated and the motion to modify is granted, a separate order for modification of an order for protection shall be issued.

(d) An order granting the relief authorized in paragraph (a), clause (2), is not voided by the admittance of the abusing party into the dwelling from which the abusing party is excluded.

[For text of subs 7 to 13, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 14. Violation of an order for protection. (a) Whenever an order for protection is granted pursuant to this section, and the respondent or person to be restrained knows of the order, violation of the order for protection is a misdemeanor.

(b) A peace officer shall arrest without a warrant and take into custody a person whom the peace officer has probable cause to believe has violated an order granted pursuant to this section restraining the person or excluding the person from the residence, if the existence of the order can be verified by the officer.

(c) A violation of an order for protection shall also constitute contempt of court and be subject to the penalties therefor.

(d) Upon the filing of an affidavit by the petitioner or any peace officer, alleging that the respondent has violated any order for protection granted pursuant to this section, the court may issue an order to the respondent, requiring the respondent to appear and show cause within 14 days why the respondent should not be found in contempt of court and punished therefor. The hearing may be held by the court in any county in which the petitioner or respondent temporarily or permanently resides at the time of the alleged violation.

(e) The admittance into petitioner's dwelling of an abusing party excluded from the dwelling under an order for protection is not a violation by the petitioner of the order for protection.

A peace officer is not liable under section 609.43, clause (1), for a failure to perform a duty required by clause (b).

[For text of subs 15 and 16, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 17. Effect on custody proceedings. In a subsequent custody proceeding the court may consider, but is not bound by, a finding in a proceeding under this chapter that domestic abuse has occurred between the parties.

Subd. 18. Notices. Each order for protection granted under this chapter must contain a conspicuous notice to the respondent or person to be restrained that:

(1) violation of an order for protection is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days or a fine of up to \$700 or both;

(2) the respondent is forbidden to enter or stay at the petitioner's residence, even if invited to do so by the petitioner or any other person; in no event is the order for protection voided; and

(3) a peace officer must arrest without warrant and take into custody a person whom the peace officer has probable cause to believe has violated an order for protection restraining the person or excluding the person from a residence.

History: 1987 c 106 s 2; 1987 c 237 s 2-5