

CHAPTER 518B

DOMESTIC ABUSE

518B.01 Domestic abuse act.

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[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings given them:

(a) "Domestic abuse" means: (i) physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, between family or household members; or (ii) terroristic threats, within the meaning of section 609.713, subdivision 1, or criminal sexual conduct, within the meaning of section 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, or 609.345, committed against a family or household member by a family or household member.

(b) "Family or household members" means spouses, former spouses, parents and children, persons related by blood, and persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, and persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time. "Family or household member" also includes a man and woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time. Issuance of an order for protection on this ground does not affect a determination of paternity under sections 257.51 to 257.74.

Subd. 3. Court jurisdiction. An application for relief under this section may be filed in the court having jurisdiction over dissolution actions in the county of residence of either party, in the county in which a pending or completed family court proceeding involving the parties or their minor children was brought, or in the county in which the alleged domestic abuse occurred. In a jurisdiction which utilizes referees in dissolution actions, the court or judge may refer actions under this section to a referee to take and report the evidence in the action in the same manner and subject to the same limitations provided in section 518.13. Actions under this section shall be given docket priorities by the court.

[For text of subds 3a to 5, see M.S.1992]

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. Except for cases in which custody is contested, findings under section 257.025, 518.17, or 518.175 are not required. 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 decision on custody and visitation shall in no way delay the issuance of an order for protection granting other reliefs provided for in this section;
- (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) exclude the abusing party from the place of employment of the petitioner, or otherwise limit access to the petitioner by the abusing party at the petitioner's place of employment;
 - (9) order the abusing party to pay restitution to the petitioner;
 - (10) order the continuance of all currently available insurance coverage without change in coverage or beneficiary designation; and
 - (11) 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.

(e) If a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation is pending between the parties, the court shall provide a copy of the order for protection to the court with jurisdiction over the dissolution or separation proceeding for inclusion in its file.

(f) An order for restitution issued under this subdivision is enforceable as civil judgment.

Subd. 7. Temporary order. (a) Where an application under this section alleges an immediate and present danger of domestic abuse, the court may grant an ex parte temporary order for protection, pending a full hearing, and granting relief as the court deems proper, including an order:

- (1) restraining the abusing party from committing acts of domestic abuse;
 - (2) excluding any party from the dwelling they share or from the residence of the other except by further order of the court;
 - (3) excluding the abusing party from the place of employment of the petitioner or otherwise limiting access to the petitioner by the abusing party at the petitioner's place of employment; and
 - (4) continuing all currently available insurance coverage without change in coverage or beneficiary designation.
- (b) A finding by the court that there is a basis for issuing an ex parte temporary order for protection constitutes a finding that sufficient reasons exist not to require notice under applicable court rules governing applications for ex parte temporary relief.

(c) An ex parte temporary order for protection shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 14 days, except for good cause as provided under paragraph (d). A full hearing, as provided by this section, shall be set for not later than seven days from the issuance of the temporary order. The respondent shall be served forthwith a copy of the ex parte order along with a copy of the petition and notice of the date set for the hearing.

(d) When service is made by published notice, as provided under subdivision 5, the petitioner may apply for an extension of the period of the ex parte order at the same time the petitioner files the affidavit required under that subdivision. The court may extend the ex parte temporary order for an additional period not to exceed 14 days. The respondent shall be served forthwith a copy of the modified ex parte order along with a copy of the notice of the new date set for the hearing.

[For text of subd 8, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 9. Assistance of sheriff in service or execution. When an order is issued under this section upon request of the petitioner, the court shall order the sheriff or constable to accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of the dwelling or residence, or otherwise assist in execution or service of the order of protection. If the application for relief is brought in a county in which the respondent is not present, the sheriff shall forward the pleadings necessary for service upon the respondent to the sheriff of the county in which the respondent is present. This transmittal must be expedited to allow for timely service.

[For text of subds 10 to 13, see M.S.1992]

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. Upon conviction, the defendant must be sentenced to a minimum of three days imprisonment and must be ordered to participate in counseling or other appropriate programs selected by the court. If the court stays imposition or execution of the jail sentence and the defendant refuses or fails to comply with the court's treatment order, the court must impose and execute the stayed jail sentence. A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who violates this paragraph during the time period between a previous conviction under this paragraph or a similar law of another state and the end of the five years following discharge from sentence for that conviction. Upon conviction, the defendant must be sentenced to a minimum of ten days imprisonment and must be ordered to participate in counseling or other appropriate programs selected by the court. Notwithstanding section 609.135, the court must impose and execute the minimum sentence provided in this paragraph for gross misdemeanor convictions.

(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 or the petitioner's place of employment, even if the violation of the order did not take place in the presence of the peace officer, if the existence of the order can be verified by the officer. The person shall be held in custody for at least 36 hours, excluding the day of arrest, Sundays, and holidays, unless the person is released earlier by a judge or judicial officer. A peace officer acting in good faith and exercising due care in making an arrest pursuant to this paragraph is immune from civil liability that might result from the officer's actions.

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

(d) If the court finds that the respondent has violated an order for protection and that there is reason to believe that the respondent will commit a further violation of the provisions of the order restraining the respondent from committing acts of domestic abuse or excluding the respondent from the petitioner's residence, the court may require the respondent to acknowledge an obligation to comply with the order on the record. The court may require a bond sufficient to deter the respondent from committing further violations of the order for protection, considering the financial resources of the respondent, and not to exceed \$10,000. If the respondent refuses to comply with an order to acknowledge the obligation or post a bond under this paragraph, the court shall commit the respondent to the county jail during the term of the order for protection or until the respondent complies with the order under this paragraph. The warrant

must state the cause of commitment, with the sum and time for which any bond is required. If an order is issued under this paragraph, the court may order the costs of the contempt action, or any part of them, to be paid by the respondent. An order under this paragraph is appealable.

(e) Upon the filing of an affidavit by the petitioner, any peace officer, or an interested party designated by the court, 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. The court also shall refer the violation of the order for protection to the appropriate prosecuting authority for possible prosecution under paragraph (a).

(f) If it is alleged that the respondent has violated an order for protection issued under subdivision 6 and the court finds that the order has expired between the time of the alleged violation and the court's hearing on the violation, the court may grant a new order for protection under subdivision 6 based solely on the respondent's alleged violation of the prior order, to be effective until the hearing on the alleged violation of the prior order. If the court finds that the respondent has violated the prior order, the relief granted in the new order for protection shall be extended for a fixed period, not to exceed one year.

(g) 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 paragraph (b).

[For text of subds 15 to 21, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 322 s 17-20; 1993 c 326 art 2 s 4-9; 1Sp1993 c 5 s 1