

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 291

By: Murdock

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to victim protective orders; amending
8 22 O.S. 2021, Section 60.2, as amended by Section 6,
9 Chapter 318, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section
10 60.2), which relates to petition; modifying
11 eligibility for filing petition for emergency
12 protective order; and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 60.2, as
15 amended by Section 6, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2022,
16 Section 60.2), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 60.2. A. A victim of domestic abuse, a victim of
18 stalking, a victim of harassment, a victim of rape, any adult or
19 emancipated minor household member on behalf of any other family or
20 household member who is a minor or incompetent, any minor age
21 sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years, or any adult victim of a crime
22 may seek relief under the provisions of the Protection from Domestic
23 Abuse Act.

24 1. The person seeking relief may file a petition for a
25 protective order with the district court in the county in which the

1 victim resides, the county in which the defendant resides, or the
2 county in which the domestic violence occurred. If the person
3 seeking relief is not a family or household member or an individual
4 who is or has been in a dating relationship with the defendant, the
5 person seeking relief must file a complaint against the defendant
6 with the proper law enforcement agency before filing a petition for
7 a protective order with the district court. The person seeking
8 relief shall provide a copy of the complaint that was filed with the
9 law enforcement agency at the full hearing if the complaint is not
10 available from the law enforcement agency. Failure to provide a
11 copy of the complaint filed with the law enforcement agency shall
12 constitute a frivolous filing and the court may assess attorney fees
13 and court costs against the plaintiff pursuant to paragraph 2 of
14 subsection C of this section. The filing of a petition for a
15 protective order shall not require jurisdiction or venue of the
16 criminal offense if either the plaintiff or defendant resides in the
17 county. If a petition has been filed in an action for divorce or
18 separate maintenance and either party to the action files a petition
19 for a protective order in the same county where the action for
20 divorce or separate maintenance is filed, the petition for the
21 protective order may be heard by the court hearing the divorce or
22 separate maintenance action if:

- 23 a. there is no established protective order docket in
24 such court, or

1 b. the court finds that, in the interest of judicial
2 economy, both actions may be heard together; provided,
3 however, the petition for a protective order,
4 including, but not limited to, a petition in which
5 children are named as petitioners, shall remain a
6 separate action and a separate order shall be entered
7 in the protective order action. Protective orders may
8 be dismissed in favor of restraining orders in the
9 divorce or separate maintenance action if the court
10 specifically finds, upon hearing, that such dismissal
11 is in the best interests of the parties and does not
12 compromise the safety of any petitioner.

13 If the defendant is a minor child, the petition shall be filed
14 with the court having jurisdiction over juvenile matters.

15 2. When the abuse occurs when the court is not open for
16 business, such person may request an emergency temporary order of
17 protection as authorized by Section 40.3 of this title.

18 B. The petition forms shall be provided by the clerk of the
19 court. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop a
20 standard form for the petition.

21 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this section, no filing
22 fee, service of process fee, attorney fees or any other fee or costs
23 shall be charged the plaintiff or victim at any time for filing a
24 petition for a protective order whether a protective order is

1 granted or not granted. The court may assess court costs, service
2 of process fees, attorney fees, other fees and filing fees against
3 the defendant at the hearing on the petition, if a protective order
4 is granted against the defendant; provided, the court shall have
5 authority to waive the costs and fees if the court finds that the
6 party does not have the ability to pay the costs and fees.

7 2. If the court makes specific findings that a petition for a
8 protective order has been filed frivolously and no victim exists,
9 the court may assess attorney fees and court costs against the
10 plaintiff.

11 D. The person seeking relief shall prepare the petition or, at
12 the request of the plaintiff, the court clerk or the victim-witness
13 coordinator, victim support person, and court case manager shall
14 prepare or assist the plaintiff in preparing the petition.

15 E. The person seeking a protective order may further request
16 the exclusive care, possession, or control of any animal owned,
17 possessed, leased, kept, or held by either the petitioner, defendant
18 or minor child residing in the residence of the petitioner or
19 defendant. The court may order the defendant to make no contact
20 with the animal and forbid the defendant from taking, transferring,
21 encumbering, concealing, molesting, attacking, striking,
22 threatening, harming, or otherwise disposing of the animal.

23 F. A court may not require the victim to seek legal sanctions
24 against the defendant including, but not limited to, divorce,

1 separation, paternity or criminal proceedings prior to hearing a
2 petition for protective order.

3 G. A victim of rape, forcible sodomy, a sex offense,
4 kidnapping, assault and battery with a deadly weapon, child abuse,
5 or member of the immediate family of a victim of first-degree
6 murder, as such terms are defined in Section 40 of this title, may
7 petition, or have a petition filed on the victim's behalf if the
8 victim is a minor, for an emergency temporary order or emergency ex
9 parte order regardless of any relationship or scenario pursuant to
10 the provisions of this section. The Administrative Office of the
11 Courts shall modify the petition forms as necessary to effectuate
12 the provisions of this subsection.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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