

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 11, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. 623

By: Coleman

An Act relating to the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act; amending 22 O.S. 2021, Section 60.4, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 60.4), which relates to service of protective orders; requiring service in certain location; requiring initial attempt of service of protective orders upon defendant within specified time frame; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 60.4, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 60.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 60.4. A. 1. A copy of a petition for a protective order, any notice of hearing and a copy of any emergency temporary order or emergency ex parte order issued by the court shall be served upon the defendant in the same manner as a bench warrant. In addition, if the service is to be in another county, the court clerk may issue service to the sheriff by facsimile or other electronic transmission for service by the sheriff and receive the return of service from the sheriff in the same manner. Any fee for service of a petition for protective order, notice of hearing, and emergency ex

1 parte order shall only be charged pursuant to subsection C of
2 Section 60.2 of this title and, if charged, shall be the same as the
3 sheriff's service fee plus mileage expenses.

4 2. Emergency temporary orders, emergency ex parte orders and
5 notice of hearings shall be given priority for service and can be
6 served twenty-four (24) hours a day when the location of the
7 defendant is known, including service to the county jail if the
8 defendant is currently in custody. The initial attempt at service
9 shall be made within twenty-four (24) hours of the issuance of the
10 order. When service cannot be made upon the defendant by the
11 sheriff, the sheriff may contact another law enforcement officer or
12 a private investigator or private process server to serve the
13 defendant.

14 3. An emergency temporary order, emergency ex parte order, a
15 petition for protective order, and a notice of hearing shall have
16 statewide validity and may be transferred to any law enforcement
17 jurisdiction to effect service upon the defendant. The sheriff may
18 transmit the document by electronic means.

19 4. The return of service shall be submitted to the sheriff's
20 office or court clerk in the court where the petition, notice of
21 hearing or order was issued.

22 5. When the defendant is a minor child who is ordered removed
23 from the residence of the victim, in addition to those documents
24 served upon the defendant, a copy of the petition, notice of hearing

1 and a copy of any temporary order or ex parte order issued by the
2 court shall be delivered with the child to the caretaker of the
3 place where such child is taken pursuant to Section 2-2-101 of Title
4 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

5 B. 1. Within fourteen (14) days of the filing of the petition
6 for a protective order, the court shall schedule a full hearing on
7 the petition, if the court finds sufficient grounds within the scope
8 of the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act stated in the petition to
9 hold such a hearing, regardless of whether an emergency temporary
10 order or ex parte order has been previously issued, requested or
11 denied. Provided, however, when the defendant is a minor child who
12 has been removed from the residence pursuant to Section 2-2-101 of
13 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, the court shall schedule a full
14 hearing on the petition within seventy-two (72) hours, regardless of
15 whether an emergency temporary order or ex parte order has been
16 previously issued, requested or denied.

17 2. The court may schedule a full hearing on the petition for a
18 protective order within seventy-two (72) hours when the court issues
19 an emergency temporary order or ex parte order suspending child
20 visitation rights due to physical violence or threat of abuse.

21 3. If service has not been made on the defendant at the time of
22 the hearing, the court shall, at the request of the petitioner,
23 issue a new emergency order reflecting a new hearing date and direct
24 service to issue.

1 4. A petition for a protective order shall, upon the request of
2 the petitioner, renew every fourteen (14) days with a new hearing
3 date assigned until the defendant is served. A petition for a
4 protective order shall not expire unless the petitioner fails to
5 appear at the hearing or fails to request a new order. A petitioner
6 may move to dismiss the petition and emergency or final order at any
7 time; however, a protective order must be dismissed by court order.

8 5. Failure to serve the defendant shall not be grounds for
9 dismissal of a petition or an ex parte order unless the victim
10 requests dismissal or fails to appear for the hearing thereon.

11 6. A final protective order shall be granted or denied within
12 six (6) months of service on the defendant unless all parties agree
13 that a temporary protective order remain in effect; provided, a
14 victim shall have the right to request a final protective order
15 hearing at any time after the passage of six (6) months.

16 C. 1. At the hearing, the court may impose any terms and
17 conditions in the protective order that the court reasonably
18 believes are necessary to bring about the cessation of domestic
19 abuse against the victim or stalking or harassment of the victim or
20 the immediate family of the victim but shall not impose any term and
21 condition that may compromise the safety of the victim including,
22 but not limited to, mediation, couples counseling, family
23 counseling, parenting classes or joint victim-offender counseling
24 sessions. The court may order the defendant to obtain domestic

1 abuse counseling or treatment in a program certified by the Attorney
2 General at the expense of the defendant pursuant to Section 644 of
3 Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

4 2. If the court grants a protective order and the defendant is
5 a minor child, the court shall order a preliminary inquiry in a
6 juvenile proceeding to determine whether further court action
7 pursuant to the Oklahoma Juvenile Code should be taken against a
8 juvenile defendant.

9 D. Final protective orders authorized by this section shall be
10 on a standard form developed by the Administrative Office of the
11 Courts.

12 E. 1. After notice and hearing, protective orders authorized
13 by this section may require the defendant to undergo treatment or
14 participate in the court-approved counseling services necessary to
15 bring about cessation of domestic abuse against the victim pursuant
16 to Section 644 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes but shall not
17 order any treatment or counseling that may compromise the safety of
18 the victim including, but not limited to, mediation, couples
19 counseling, family counseling, parenting classes or joint victim-
20 offender counseling sessions.

21 2. The defendant may be required to pay all or any part of the
22 cost of such treatment or counseling services. The court shall not
23 be responsible for such cost.

1 3. Should the plaintiff choose to undergo treatment or
2 participate in court-approved counseling services for victims of
3 domestic abuse, the court may order the defendant to pay all or any
4 part of the cost of such treatment or counseling services if the
5 court determines that payment by the defendant is appropriate.

6 F. When necessary to protect the victim and when authorized by
7 the court, protective orders granted pursuant to the provisions of
8 this section may be served upon the defendant by a peace officer,
9 sheriff, constable, or policeman or other officer whose duty it is
10 to preserve the peace, as defined by Section 99 of Title 21 of the
11 Oklahoma Statutes.

12 G. 1. Any protective order issued on or after November 1,
13 2012, pursuant to subsection C of this section shall be:

14 a. for a fixed period not to exceed a period of five (5)
15 years unless extended, modified, vacated or rescinded
16 upon motion by either party or if the court approves
17 any consent agreement entered into by the plaintiff
18 and defendant; provided, if the defendant is
19 incarcerated, the protective order shall remain in
20 full force and effect during the period of
21 incarceration. The period of incarceration, in any
22 jurisdiction, shall not be included in the calculation
23 of the five-year time limitation, or
24

b. continuous upon a specific finding by the court of one of the following:

(1) the person has a history of violating the orders of any court or governmental entity,

(2) the person has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense,

(3) the person has a previous felony conviction for stalking as provided in Section 1173 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

(4) a court order for a final Victim Protection Order has previously been issued against the person in this state or another state, or

(5) the victim provides proof that a continuous protective order is necessary for his or her protection.

Further, the court may take into consideration whether the person has a history of domestic violence or a history of other violent acts. The protective order shall remain in effect until modified, vacated or rescinded upon motion by either party or if the court approves any consent agreement entered into by the plaintiff and defendant. If the defendant is incarcerated, the protective order shall remain in full force and effect during the period of incarceration.

1 2. The court shall notify the parties at the time of the
2 issuance of the protective order of the duration of the protective
3 order.

4 3. Upon the filing of a motion by either party to modify,
5 extend, or vacate a protective order, a hearing shall be scheduled
6 and notice given to the parties. At the hearing, the issuing court
7 may take such action as is necessary under the circumstances.

8 4. If a child has been removed from the residence of a parent
9 or custodial adult because of domestic abuse committed by the child,
10 the parent or custodial adult may refuse the return of such child to
11 the residence unless, upon further consideration by the court in a
12 juvenile proceeding, it is determined that the child is no longer a
13 threat and should be allowed to return to the residence.

14 H. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly and
15 willfully seek a protective order against a spouse or ex-spouse
16 pursuant to the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act for purposes of
17 harassment, undue advantage, intimidation, or limitation of child
18 visitation rights in any divorce proceeding or separation action
19 without justifiable cause.

20 2. The violator shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a
21 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a
22 period not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not to exceed Five
23 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1 3. A second or subsequent conviction under this subsection
2 shall be a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the
3 Department of Corrections for a period not to exceed two (2) years,
4 or by a fine not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or by
5 both such fine and imprisonment.

6 I. 1. A protective order issued under the Protection from
7 Domestic Abuse Act shall not in any manner affect title to real
8 property, purport to grant to the parties a divorce or otherwise
9 purport to determine the issues between the parties as to child
10 custody, visitation or visitation schedules, child support or
11 division of property or any other like relief obtainable pursuant to
12 Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes, except child visitation orders
13 may be temporarily suspended or modified to protect from threats of
14 abuse or physical violence by the defendant or a threat to violate a
15 custody order. Orders not affecting title may be entered for good
16 cause found to protect an animal owned by either of the parties or
17 any child living in the household.

18 2. When granting any protective order for the protection of a
19 minor child from violence or threats of abuse, the court shall allow
20 visitation only under conditions that provide adequate supervision
21 and protection to the child while maintaining the integrity of a
22 divorce decree or temporary order.

23 J. 1. In order to ensure that a petitioner can maintain an
24 existing wireless telephone number or household utility account, the

1 court, after providing notice and a hearing, may issue an order
2 directing a wireless service provider or public utility provider to
3 transfer the billing responsibility for and rights to the wireless
4 telephone number or numbers of any minor children in the care of the
5 petitioning party or household utility account to the petitioner if
6 the petitioner is not the wireless service or public utility account
7 holder.

8 2. The order transferring billing responsibility for and rights
9 to the wireless telephone number or numbers or household utility
10 account to the petitioner shall list the name and billing telephone
11 number of the account holder, the name and contact information of
12 the person to whom the telephone number or numbers or household
13 utility account will be transferred and each telephone number or
14 household utility to be transferred to that person. The court shall
15 ensure that the contact information of the petitioner is not
16 provided to the account holder in proceedings held under this
17 subsection.

18 3. Upon issuance, a copy of the final order of protection shall
19 be transmitted, either electronically or by certified mail, to the
20 registered agent of the wireless service provider or public utility
21 provider listed with the Secretary of State or Corporation
22 Commission of Oklahoma or electronically to the email address
23 provided by the wireless service provider or public utility
24

1 provider. Such transmittal shall constitute adequate notice for the
2 wireless service provider or public utility provider.

3 4. If the wireless service provider or public utility provider
4 cannot operationally or technically effectuate the order due to
5 certain circumstances, the wireless service provider or public
6 utility provider shall notify the petitioner. Such circumstances
7 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 8 a. the account holder has already terminated the account,
- 9 b. the differences in network technology prevent the
10 functionality of a mobile device on the network, or
- 11 c. there are geographic or other limitations on network
12 or service availability.

13 5. Upon transfer of billing responsibility for and rights to a
14 wireless telephone number or numbers or household utility account to
15 the petitioner under the provisions of this subsection by a wireless
16 service provider or public utility provider, the petitioner shall
17 assume all financial responsibility for the transferred wireless
18 telephone number or numbers or household utility account, monthly
19 service and utility billing costs and costs for any mobile device
20 associated with the wireless telephone number or numbers. The
21 wireless service provider or public utility provider shall have the
22 right to pursue the original account holder for purposes of
23 collecting any past due amounts owed to the wireless service
24 provider or public utility provider.

1 6. The provisions of this subsection shall not preclude a
2 wireless service provider or public utility provider from applying
3 any routine and customary requirements for account establishment to
4 the petitioner as part of this transfer of billing responsibility
5 for a household utility account or for a wireless telephone number
6 or numbers and any mobile devices attached to that number including,
7 but not limited to, identification, financial information and
8 customer preferences.

9 7. The provisions of this subsection shall not affect the
10 ability of the court to apportion the assets and debts of the
11 parties as provided for in law or the ability to determine the
12 temporary use, possession and control of personal property.

13 8. No cause of action shall lie against any wireless service
14 provider or public utility provider, its officers, employees or
15 agents for actions taken in accordance with the terms of a court
16 order issued under the provisions of this subsection.

17 9. As used in this subsection:

18 a. "wireless service provider" means a provider of
19 commercial mobile service under Section 332(d) of the
20 federal Telecommunications Act of 1996,

21 b. "public utility provider" means every corporation
22 organized or doing business in this state that owns,
23 operates or manages any plant or equipment for the
24 manufacture, production, transmission, transportation,

1 delivery or furnishing of water, heat or light with
2 gas or electric current for heat, light or power, for
3 public use in this state, and

4 c. "household utility account" shall include utility
5 services for water, heat, light, power or gas that are
6 provided by a public utility provider.

7 K. 1. A court shall not issue any mutual protective orders.

8 2. If both parties allege domestic abuse by the other party,
9 the parties shall do so by separate petitions. The court shall
10 review each petition separately in an individual or a consolidated
11 hearing and grant or deny each petition on its individual merits.
12 If the court finds cause to grant both motions, the court shall do
13 so by separate orders and with specific findings justifying the
14 issuance of each order.

15 3. The court may only consolidate a hearing if:

16 a. the court makes specific findings that:

17 (1) sufficient evidence exists of domestic abuse,
18 stalking, harassment or rape against each party,
19 and

20 (2) each party acted primarily as aggressors,

21 b. the defendant filed a petition with the court for a
22 protective order no less than three (3) days, not
23 including weekends or holidays, prior to the first
24

1 scheduled full hearing on the petition filed by the
2 plaintiff, and

3 c. the defendant had no less than forty-eight (48) hours
4 of notice prior to the full hearing on the petition
5 filed by the plaintiff.

6 L. The court may allow a plaintiff or victim to be accompanied
7 by a victim support person at court proceedings. A victim support
8 person shall not make legal arguments; however, a victim support
9 person who is not a licensed attorney may offer the plaintiff or
10 victim comfort or support and may remain in close proximity to the
11 plaintiff or victim.

12 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
17 February 11, 2025 - DO PASS
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