

CHAPTER 596

(House Bill 464)

AN ACT concerning

Domestic Violence – ~~Interim and Temporary~~ Protective Orders – Custody of Minor Child

FOR the purpose of authorizing a District Court Commissioner to order a law enforcement officer to use all reasonable and necessary force to enforce a temporary custody provision of an interim protective order; authorizing a judge to order a law enforcement officer to use all reasonable and necessary force to enforce a temporary custody provision of ~~an interim or a~~ a temporary protective order; requiring that enforcement of a temporary custody provision of an interim, temporary, or final protective order occur after service of the protective order; and generally relating to domestic violence protective orders.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Family Law
Section ~~4–504.1 and~~ 4–505(a), and 4–506(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Family Law

4–504.1.

(a) A petition under this subtitle may be filed with a commissioner when neither the office of the clerk of the circuit court nor the Office of the District Court Clerk is open for business.

(b) If a petition is filed with a commissioner and the commissioner finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent has abused a person eligible for relief, the commissioner may issue an interim protective order to protect a person eligible for relief.

(c) An interim protective order may:

(1) order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats of abuse of a person eligible for relief;

- (2) order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing a person eligible for relief;
- (3) order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of a person eligible for relief;
- (4) if a person eligible for relief and the respondent are residing together at the time of the alleged abuse:
 - (i) order the respondent to vacate the home immediately;
 - (ii) award to a person eligible for relief custody of any child of the person eligible for relief and respondent then residing in the home; and
 - (iii) subject to the limits as to a nonspouse specified in § 4-505(a)(2)(iv) of this subtitle, award temporary use and possession of the home to the person eligible for relief;
- (5) in a case alleging abuse of a child, award temporary custody of a minor child of the respondent and a person eligible for relief;
- (6) in a case alleging abuse of a vulnerable adult, subject to the limits as to a nonspouse specified in § 4-505(a)(2)(iv) of this subtitle, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living in the home;
- (7) order the respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief; or
- (8) order the respondent to remain away from the residence of any family member of a person eligible for relief.

(D) IF THE ~~JUDGE COMMISSIONER~~ AWARDS TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF A MINOR CHILD UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(4)(II) OR (5) OF THIS SECTION, THE ~~JUDGE COMMISSIONER~~ MAY ORDER A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO USE ALL REASONABLE AND NECESSARY FORCE TO RETURN THE MINOR CHILD TO THE CUSTODIAL PARENT ~~AT THE TIME OF SERVICE OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ENTRY~~ SERVICE OF THE INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER.

[(d)] (E) (1) (i) An interim protective order shall state the date, time, and location for the temporary protective order hearing and a tentative date, time, and location for a final protective order hearing.

(ii) A temporary protective order hearing shall be held on the first or second day on which a District Court judge is sitting after issuance of the interim protective order, unless the judge continues the hearing for good cause.

(2) An interim protective order shall include in at least 10–point bold type:

(i) notice to the respondent that:

1. the respondent must give the court written notice of each change of address;

2. if the respondent fails to appear at the temporary protective order hearing or any later hearing, the respondent may be served with any orders or notices in the case by first–class mail at the respondent’s last known address;

3. the date, time, and location of the final protective order hearing is tentative only, and subject to change; and

4. if the respondent does not attend the temporary protective order hearing, the respondent may call the Office of the Clerk of the District Court at the number provided in the order to find out the actual date, time, and location of any final protective order hearing;

(ii) a statement of all possible forms and duration of relief that a temporary protective order or final protective order may contain;

(iii) notice to the petitioner and respondent that, at the hearing, a judge may issue a temporary protective order that grants any or all of the relief requested in the petition or may deny the petition, whether or not the respondent is in court;

(iv) a warning to the respondent that violation of an interim protective order is a crime and that a law enforcement officer shall arrest the respondent, with or without a warrant, and take the respondent into custody if the officer has probable cause to believe that the respondent has violated any provision of the interim protective order; and

(v) the phone number of the Office of the District Court Clerk.

~~[(e)]~~ (F) Whenever a commissioner issues an interim protective order, the commissioner shall:

(1) immediately forward a copy of the petition and interim protective order to the appropriate law enforcement agency for service on the respondent; and

(2) before the hearing scheduled in the interim protective order, transfer the case file and the return of service, if any, to the Office of the District Court Clerk.

[(f)] (G) A law enforcement officer shall:

(1) immediately on receipt of a petition and interim protective order, serve them on the respondent named in the order; and

(2) immediately after service, make a return of service to the commissioner's office or, if the Office of the District Court Clerk is open for business, to the Clerk.

[(g)] (H) An interim protective order shall be effective until the earlier of:

(1) the temporary protective order hearing under § 4-505 of this subtitle; or

(2) the end of the second business day the Office of the Clerk of the District Court is open following the issuance of an interim protective order.

[(h)] (I) A decision of a commissioner to grant or deny relief under this section is not binding on, and does not affect any power granted to or duty imposed on, a judge of a circuit court or the District Court under any law, including any power to grant or deny a petition for a temporary protective order or final protective order.

4-505.

(a) (1) If, after a hearing on a petition, whether ex parte or otherwise, a judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person eligible for relief has been abused, the judge may enter a temporary protective order to protect any person eligible for relief from abuse.

(2) The temporary protective order may order any or all of the following relief:

(i) order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats of abuse of a person eligible for relief;

(ii) order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;

(iii) order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of a person eligible for relief;

(iv) where the person eligible for relief and the respondent are residing together at the time of the alleged abuse, order the respondent to vacate the home immediately and award temporary use and possession of the home to the person eligible for relief or in the case of alleged abuse of a child or alleged abuse of a vulnerable adult, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living in the home, provided that the court may not grant an order to vacate and award temporary use and possession of the home to a nonspouse person eligible for relief unless the name of the person eligible for relief appears on the lease or deed to the home or the person eligible for relief has resided in the home with the respondent for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;

(v) order the respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or home of other family members;

(vi) order the respondent to remain away from a child care provider of a person eligible for relief while a child of the person is in the care of the child care provider; and

(vii) award temporary custody of a minor child of the person eligible for relief and the respondent.

(3) IF THE JUDGE AWARDS TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF A MINOR CHILD UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(VII) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE JUDGE MAY ORDER A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO USE ALL REASONABLE AND NECESSARY FORCE TO RETURN THE MINOR CHILD TO THE CUSTODIAL PARENT ~~AT THE TIME OF SERVICE OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ENTRY~~ SERVICE OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER.

4-506.

(e) If the judge awards temporary custody of a minor child under subsection (d)(7) of this section, the judge may order a law enforcement officer to use all reasonable and necessary force to return the minor child to the custodial parent [at the time of service or as soon as possible] after [entry] SERVICE of the final protective order.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.