

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4
5 By: Senator K. Hammer

A Bill

SENATE BILL 230

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CREATING A STATUTORY CIVIL ACTION FOR INVASION
9 OF PRIVACY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

12 CREATING A STATUTORY CIVIL ACTION FOR
13 INVASION OF PRIVACY.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 118, is amended to add an
20 additional section to read as follows:

21 16-118-116. Civil action for invasion of privacy.

22 (a) A person may bring a civil action for damages and injunctive
23 relief against another person that:

24 (1) Improperly intrudes into the person's private affairs, if
25 the intrusion would be offensive to a reasonable person; or

26 (2)(A) Publicizes the person in a false light, as would be
27 recognized in the common law unless otherwise stated in this section.

28 (B) A person may bring a claim involving false light
29 against a defendant under both the common law and under this section.

30 (b)(1) In a civil action brought under this section, it is not
31 necessary for the plaintiff to allege in the complaint any extrinsic facts
32 for the purpose of showing the application of the extrinsic facts to the
33 plaintiff out of which the cause of action arose.

34 (2) For the purposes of this section, it is sufficient in a
35 civil action under this section to plead generally that the matter concerning
36 the plaintiff was published or spoken to another person.



1 (3) If an allegation in the plaintiff’s complaint is not
2 controverted or disputed in the defendant’s answer, the allegation is deemed
3 proven and it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff to prove the
4 allegation at trial.

5 (c) A defendant to a cause of action under this section is strictly
6 liable for any statement made that is proven to have improperly invaded the
7 plaintiff’s privacy.

8 (d) The burden of proof for a claim under this section is a
9 preponderance of the evidence.

10 (e)(1) Damages in a civil action under this section shall be
11 determined by the trier of fact, but proof of damages is not required as an
12 element of a civil action under this section.

13 (2)(A) Compensatory and punitive damages for emotional distress
14 are available for a civil action under this section.

15 (B) Damages described under this subsection are the only
16 damages available under this section unless the person raises an additional
17 cause of action that provides for additional damages.

18 (f) Subsection (c) of this section and subdivision (e)(2) of this
19 section do not apply to a civil action under this section if the court
20 hearing the civil action determines as a matter of law that the plaintiff is:

21 (1) A public figure and the acts complained of consist
22 only of a statement or statements that relate directly to the plaintiff’s
23 status as a public figure; or

24 (2) Not a public figure but the subject of the acts
25 complained of is solely a matter of public concern.

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