LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 118

Introduced by Morfeld, 46. Read first time January 07, 2021 Committee:

1	A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to protection orders; to amend sections
2	28-311.09, 28-311.11, 42-924, and 42-924.02, Revised Statutes
3	Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to change the duration of harassment,
4	sexual assault, and domestic abuse protection orders from one year
5	to five years; to change requirements for affidavits; and to repeal
6	the original sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 28-311.09, Revised Statutes Cumulative
 Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

28-311.09 (1) Any victim who has been harassed as defined by section 3 28-311.02 may file a petition and affidavit for a harassment protection 4 order as provided in subsection (3) of this section. Upon the filing of 5 such a petition and affidavit in support thereof, the court may issue a 6 7 harassment protection order without bond enjoining the respondent from (a) imposing any restraint upon the person or liberty of the petitioner, 8 9 harassing, threatening, assaulting, molesting, attacking, (b) or otherwise disturbing the peace of the petitioner, or (c) telephoning, 10 contacting, or otherwise communicating with the 11 petitioner. The harassment protection order shall specify to whom relief under this 12 13 section was granted.

14 (2) The petition for a harassment protection order shall state the 15 events and dates or approximate dates of acts constituting the alleged 16 harassment, including the most recent and most severe incident or 17 incidents.

(3) A petition for a harassment protection order shall be filed with
the clerk of the district court, and the proceeding may be heard by the
county court or the district court as provided in section 25-2740.

(4) A petition for a harassment protection order filed pursuant to 21 subsection (1) of this section may not be withdrawn except upon order of 22 the court. An order issued pursuant to subsection (1) of this section 23 24 shall specify that it is effective for a period of five years one year 25 unless otherwise dismissed or modified by the court. Any person, except the petitioner, who knowingly violates an order issued pursuant to 26 subsection (1) of this section after service or notice as described in 27 28 subdivision (9)(b) of this section shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor. 29

30 (5)(a) Fees to cover costs associated with the filing of a petition
31 for a harassment protection order or the issuance or service of a

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harassment protection order seeking only the relief provided by this section shall not be charged, except that a court may assess such fees and costs if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the statements contained in the petition were false and that the harassment protection order was sought in bad faith.

6 (b) A court may also assess costs associated with the filing of a 7 petition for a harassment protection order or the issuance or service of 8 a harassment protection order seeking only the relief provided by this 9 section against the respondent.

(6)(a) (6) The clerk of the district court shall make available 10 standard application and affidavit forms for a harassment protection 11 order with instructions for completion to be used by a petitioner. 12 13 Affidavit forms shall request all relevant information, including, but not limited to: A description of the incidents that are the basis for the 14 application for a harassment protection order, including the most severe 15 16 incident, and the date or approximate date of such incidents. The clerk and his or her employees shall not provide assistance in completing the 17 forms. The State Court Administrator shall adopt and promulgate the 18 standard application and affidavit forms provided for in this section as 19 well as the standard temporary ex parte and final harassment protection 20 order forms and provide a copy of such forms to all clerks of the 21 district courts in this state. These standard temporary ex parte and 22 final harassment protection order forms shall be the only such forms used 23 24 in this state.

(b) A petition and affidavit under this section are not required to
 be signed and acknowledged before a notary public. A petition and
 affidavit under this section shall include a written, self-authenticated
 declaration under penalty of perjury in substantially the following form:
 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and
 correct.

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1 (Printed name of the petitioner)

2

3 (Signature of the petitioner)

- 4 _____
- 5 <u>(Date signed)</u>

(7) Any order issued under subsection (1) of this section may be 6 7 issued ex parte without notice to the respondent if it reasonably appears from the specific facts shown by affidavit of the petitioner that 8 9 irreparable harm, loss, or damage will result before the matter can be 10 heard on notice. If the specific facts included in the affidavit (a) do not show that the petitioner will suffer irreparable harm, loss, or 11 damage or (b) show that, for any other compelling reason, an ex parte 12 13 order should not be issued, the court may forthwith cause notice of the 14 application to be given to the respondent stating that he or she may show cause, not more than fourteen days after service, why such order should 15 16 not be entered. Any notice provided to the respondent shall include 17 notification that a court may treat a petition for a harassment protection order as a petition for a sexual assault protection order or a 18 19 domestic abuse protection order if it appears from the facts that such other protection order is more appropriate and that the respondent shall 20 have an opportunity to show cause as to why such protection order should 21 not be entered. If such ex parte order is issued without notice to the 22 23 respondent, the court shall forthwith cause notice of the petition and 24 order and a form with which to request a show-cause hearing to be given the respondent stating that, upon service on the respondent, the order 25 shall remain in effect for a period of five years one year unless the 26 respondent shows cause why the order should not remain in effect for a 27 28 period of five years one year. If the respondent wishes to appear and show cause why the order should not remain in effect for a period of five 29 years one year, he or she shall affix his or her current address, 30 telephone number, and signature to the form and return it to the clerk of 31

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1 the district court within ten business days after service upon him or 2 her. Upon receipt of a timely request for a show-cause hearing, the court shall immediately schedule a show-cause hearing to be held within thirty 3 4 days after the receipt of the request for a show-cause hearing and shall 5 notify the petitioner and respondent of the hearing date. If a petition is dismissed without a hearing, it shall be dismissed without prejudice. 6 The petition and affidavit shall be deemed to have been offered into 7 evidence at any show-cause hearing. The petition and affidavit shall be 8 9 admitted into evidence unless specifically excluded by the court.

10 (8) A court may treat a petition for a harassment protection order 11 as a petition for a sexual assault protection order or a domestic abuse 12 protection order if it appears from the facts in the petition, affidavit, 13 and evidence presented at a show-cause hearing that such other protection 14 order is more appropriate and if:

(a) The court makes specific findings that such other order is moreappropriate; or

17 (b) The petitioner has requested the court to so treat the petition.

(9)(a) Upon the issuance of any temporary ex parte or final 18 harassment protection order, the clerk of the court shall forthwith 19 provide the petitioner, without charge, with two certified copies of such 20 order. The clerk of the court shall also forthwith provide the local 21 22 police department or local law enforcement agency and the local sheriff's office, without charge, with one copy each of such order and one copy 23 24 each of the sheriff's return thereon. The clerk of the court shall also 25 forthwith provide a copy of the harassment protection order to the sheriff's office in the county where the respondent may be personally 26 served together with instructions for service. Upon receipt of the order 27 and instructions for service, such sheriff's office shall forthwith serve 28 the harassment protection order upon the respondent and file its return 29 thereon with the clerk of the court which issued the harassment 30 protection order within fourteen days of the issuance of the harassment 31

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1 protection order. If any harassment protection order is dismissed or 2 modified by the court, the clerk of the court shall forthwith provide the 3 local police department or local law enforcement agency and the local 4 sheriff's office, without charge, with one copy each of the order of 5 dismissal or modification.

6 (b) If the respondent is present at a hearing convened pursuant to 7 this section and the harassment protection order is not dismissed, such 8 respondent shall be deemed to have notice by the court at such hearing 9 that the harassment protection order will be granted and remain in effect 10 and further service of such notice described in this subsection shall not 11 be required for purposes of prosecution under this section.

12 (c) A temporary ex parte harassment protection order shall be 13 affirmed and deemed the final protection order and service of the 14 temporary ex parte order shall be notice of the final protection order if 15 the respondent has been properly served with the ex parte order and:

(i) The respondent fails to request a show-cause hearing within ten
business days after service upon him or her and no hearing was requested
by the petitioner or upon the court's own motion;

(ii) The respondent has been properly served with notice of any
hearing requested by the respondent or petitioner or upon the court's own
motion and the respondent fails to appear at such hearing; or

(iii) The respondent has been properly served with notice of any
hearing requested by the respondent, the petitioner, or upon the court's
own motion and the protection order was not dismissed at the hearing.

(10) A peace officer may, with or without a warrant, arrest a person if (a) the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed a violation of a harassment protection order issued pursuant to this section or a violation of a valid foreign harassment protection order recognized pursuant to section 28-311.10 and (b) a petitioner under this section provides the peace officer with a copy of a harassment protection order or the peace officer determines that such an order

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1 exists after communicating with the local law enforcement agency or a 2 person protected under a valid foreign harassment protection order 3 recognized pursuant to section 28-311.10 provides the peace officer with 4 a copy of such order.

(11) A peace officer making an arrest pursuant to subsection (10) of 5 this section shall take such person into custody and take such person 6 before the county court or the court which issued the harassment 7 protection order within a reasonable time. At such time the court shall 8 9 establish the conditions of such person's release from custody, including 10 the determination of bond or recognizance, as the case may be. The court shall issue an order directing that such person shall have no contact 11 with the alleged victim of the harassment. 12

(12) When provided by the petitioner, the court shall make confidential numeric victim identification information, including social security numbers and dates of birth, available to appropriate criminal justice agencies engaged in protection order enforcement efforts. Such agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of this information except for entry into state and federal data bases for protection order enforcement.

20 Sec. 2. Section 28-311.11, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 21 2020, is amended to read:

22 28-311.11 (1) Any victim of a sexual assault offense may file a petition and affidavit for a sexual assault protection order as provided 23 24 in subsection (3) of this section. Upon the filing of such a petition and 25 affidavit in support thereof, the court may issue a sexual assault protection order without bond enjoining the respondent from (a) imposing 26 any restraint upon the person or liberty of the petitioner, (b) 27 harassing, threatening, assaulting, molesting, attacking, or otherwise 28 disturbing the peace of the petitioner, or (c) telephoning, contacting, 29 or otherwise communicating with the petitioner. The sexual assault 30 protection order shall specify to whom relief under this section was 31

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1 granted.

2 (2) The petition for a sexual assault protection order shall state 3 the events and dates or approximate dates of acts constituting the sexual 4 assault offense, including the most recent and most severe incident or 5 incidents.

6 (3) A petition for a sexual assault protection order shall be filed 7 with the clerk of the district court and the proceeding may be heard by 8 the county court or the district court as provided in section 25-2740.

9 (4) A petition for a sexual assault protection order may not be withdrawn except upon order of the court. A sexual assault protection 10 order shall specify that it is effective for a period of five years one 11 year unless renewed pursuant to subsection (12) of this section or 12 13 otherwise dismissed or modified by the court. Any person, except the petitioner, who knowingly violates a sexual assault protection order 14 after service or notice as described in subdivision (9)(b) of this 15 section shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor, except that any person 16 17 convicted of violating such order who has a prior conviction for violating a sexual assault protection order shall be guilty of a Class IV 18 19 felony.

(5)(a) Fees to cover costs associated with the filing of a petition 20 for issuance or renewal of a sexual assault protection order or the 21 22 issuance or service of a sexual assault protection order seeking only the relief provided by this section shall not be charged, except that a court 23 24 may assess such fees and costs if the court finds, by clear and 25 convincing evidence, that the statements contained in the petition were false and that the sexual assault protection order was sought in bad 26 faith. 27

(b) A court may also assess costs associated with the filing of a
petition for issuance or renewal of a sexual assault protection order or
the issuance or service of a sexual assault protection order seeking only
the relief provided by this section against the respondent.

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1 (6)(a) (6) The clerk of the district court shall make available 2 standard application and affidavit forms for issuance and renewal of a sexual assault protection order with instructions for completion to be 3 4 used by a petitioner. Affidavit forms shall request all relevant 5 information, including, but not limited to: A description of the most recent incident that was the basis for the application for a sexual 6 7 assault protection order and the date or approximate date of the incident and, if there was more than one incident, the most severe incident and 8 9 the date or approximate date of such incident. The clerk and his or her 10 employees shall not provide assistance in completing the forms. The State Court Administrator shall adopt and promulgate the standard application 11 and affidavit forms provided for in this section as well as the standard 12 13 temporary ex parte and final sexual assault protection order forms and provide a copy of such forms to all clerks of the district courts in this 14 state. Such standard temporary ex parte and final sexual assault 15 protection order forms shall be the only forms used in this state. 16

(b) A petition and affidavit under this section are not required to
 be signed and acknowledged before a notary public. A petition and
 affidavit under this section shall include a written, self-authenticated
 declaration under penalty of perjury in substantially the following form:
 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and
 correct.

- 23 ______
- 24 <u>(Printed name of the petitioner)</u>
- 25 <u>....</u>
- 26 <u>(Signature of the petitioner)</u>
- 27 <u>....</u>
- 28 (Date signed)

(7) A sexual assault protection order may be issued or renewed ex
parte without notice to the respondent if it reasonably appears from the
specific facts shown by affidavit of the petitioner that irreparable

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harm, loss, or damage will result before the matter can be heard on 1 2 notice. If a sexual assault protection order is not issued ex parte, the court shall immediately schedule an evidentiary hearing to be held within 3 fourteen days after the filing of the petition, and the court shall cause 4 5 notice of the application to be given to the respondent stating that he or she may show cause why such order should not be entered. Any notice 6 provided to the respondent shall include notification that a court may 7 treat a petition for a sexual assault protection order as a petition for 8 9 a harassment protection order or a domestic abuse protection order if it appears from the facts that such other protection order is more 10 appropriate and that the respondent shall have an opportunity to show 11 cause as to why such protection order should not be entered. If such ex 12 parte order is issued or renewed without notice to the respondent, the 13 court shall forthwith cause notice of the petition and order and a form 14 with which to request a show-cause hearing to be given the respondent 15 16 stating that, upon service on the respondent, the order shall remain in 17 effect for a period of five years one year unless the respondent shows cause why the order should not remain in effect for a period of five 18 19 years one year. If the respondent wishes to appear and show cause why the order should not remain in effect for a period of five years one year, he 20 or she shall affix his or her current address, telephone number, and 21 signature to the form and return it to the clerk of the district court 22 23 within ten business days after service upon him or her. Upon receipt of a timely request for a show-cause hearing, the court shall immediately 24 25 schedule a show-cause hearing to be held within thirty days after the receipt of the request for a show-cause hearing and shall notify the 26 petitioner and respondent of the hearing date. The petition and affidavit 27 shall be deemed to have been offered into evidence at any show-cause 28 hearing. The petition and affidavit shall be admitted into evidence 29 unless specifically excluded by the court. 30

31 (8) A court may treat a petition for a sexual assault protection

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order as a petition for a harassment protection order or a domestic abuse
protection order if it appears from the facts in the petition, affidavit,
and evidence presented at a show-cause hearing that such other protection
order is more appropriate and if:

5 (a) The court makes specific findings that such other order is more6 appropriate; or

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(b) The petitioner has requested the court to so treat the petition.

(9)(a) Upon the issuance or renewal of any temporary ex parte or 8 9 final sexual assault protection order, the clerk of the court shall forthwith provide the petitioner, without charge, with two certified 10 copies of such order. The clerk of the court shall also forthwith provide 11 the local police department or local law enforcement agency and the local 12 sheriff's office, without charge, with one copy each of such order and 13 one copy each of the sheriff's return thereon. The clerk of the court 14 shall also forthwith provide a copy of the sexual assault protection 15 16 order to the sheriff's office in the county where the respondent may be personally served together with instructions for service. Upon receipt of 17 the order and instructions for service, such sheriff's office shall 18 forthwith serve the sexual assault protection order upon the respondent 19 and file its return thereon with the clerk of the court which issued the 20 sexual assault protection order within fourteen days of the issuance of 21 22 the initial or renewed sexual assault protection order. If any sexual assault protection order is dismissed or modified by the court, the clerk 23 24 of the court shall forthwith provide the local police department or local 25 law enforcement agency and the local sheriff's office, without charge, with one copy each of the order of dismissal or modification. 26

(b) If the respondent is present at a hearing convened pursuant to this section and the sexual assault protection order is not dismissed, such respondent shall be deemed to have notice by the court at such hearing that the protection order will be granted and remain in effect and further service of such notice described in this subsection shall not

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1 be required for purposes of prosecution under this section.

2 (c) A temporary ex parte sexual assault protection order shall be 3 affirmed and deemed the final protection order and service of the 4 temporary ex parte order shall be notice of the final protection order if 5 the respondent has been properly served with the ex parte order and:

6 (i) The respondent fails to request a show-cause hearing within ten
7 business days after service upon him or her and no hearing was requested
8 by the petitioner or upon the court's own motion;

9 (ii) The respondent has been properly served with notice of any 10 hearing requested by the respondent or petitioner or upon the court's own 11 motion and the respondent fails to appear at such hearing; or

(iii) The respondent has been properly served with notice of any
hearing requested by the respondent, the petitioner, or upon the court's
own motion and the protection order was not dismissed at the hearing.

(10) A peace officer shall, with or without a warrant, arrest a 15 person if (a) the officer has probable cause to believe that the person 16 has committed a violation of a sexual assault protection order issued 17 pursuant to this section or a violation of a valid foreign sexual assault 18 protection order recognized pursuant to section 28-311.12 and (b) a 19 petitioner under this section provides the peace officer with a copy of 20 such order or the peace officer determines that such an order exists 21 22 after communicating with the local law enforcement agency.

23 (11) A peace officer making an arrest pursuant to subsection (10) of 24 this section shall take such person into custody and take such person before the county court or the court which issued the sexual assault 25 protection order within a reasonable time. At such time the court shall 26 establish the conditions of such person's release from custody, including 27 the determination of bond or recognizance, as the case may be. The court 28 shall issue an order directing that such person shall have no contact 29 with the alleged victim of the sexual assault offense. 30

31 (12)(a) An order issued under subsection (1) of this section may be

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1 renewed <u>annually</u>. To request renewal of the order, the petitioner shall 2 file a petition for renewal and affidavit in support thereof at any time 3 within forty-five days prior to the date the order is set to expire, 4 including the date the order expires.

5 (b) A sexual assault protection order may be renewed on the basis of 6 the petitioner's affidavit stating that there has been no material change 7 in relevant circumstances since entry of the order and stating the reason 8 for the requested renewal if:

(i) The petitioner seeks no modification of the order; and

10 (ii)(A) The respondent has been properly served with notice of the 11 petition for renewal and notice of hearing and fails to appear at the 12 hearing; or

(B) The respondent indicates that he or she does not contest therenewal.

(c) The petition for renewal shall state the reasons a renewal is 15 16 sought and shall be filed with the clerk of the district court, and the 17 proceeding thereon may be heard by the county court or the district court as provided in section 25-2740. A petition for renewal will otherwise be 18 19 governed in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsections (4) through (11) of this section. The renewed order shall specify that it is 20 effective for <u>five years</u> one year commencing on the first calendar day 21 after expiration of the previous order or on the calendar day the court 22 grants the renewal if such day is subsequent to the first calendar day 23 24 after expiration of the previous order.

(13) When provided by the petitioner, the court shall make confidential numeric victim identification information, including social security numbers and dates of birth, available to appropriate criminal justice agencies engaged in protection order enforcement efforts. Such agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of this information, except for entry into state and federal data bases for protection order enforcement.

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(14) For purposes of this section, sexual assault offense means:

2 (a) Conduct amounting to sexual assault under section 28-319 or 3 28-320, sexual abuse by a school employee under section 28-316.01, sexual 4 assault of a child under section 28-319.01 or 28-320.01, or an attempt to 5 commit any of such offenses; or

6 (b) Subjecting or attempting to subject another person to sexual 7 contact or sexual penetration without his or her consent, as such terms 8 are defined in section 28-318.

9 Sec. 3. Section 42-924, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
10 2020, is amended to read:

42-924 (1)(a) Any victim of domestic abuse may file a petition and affidavit for a protection order as provided in this section. Upon the filing of such a petition and affidavit in support thereof, the court may issue a protection order without bond granting the following relief:

(i) Enjoining the respondent from imposing any restraint upon thepetitioner or upon the liberty of the petitioner;

17 (ii) Enjoining the respondent from threatening, assaulting, 18 molesting, attacking, or otherwise disturbing the peace of the petitioner; 19

(iii) Enjoining the respondent from telephoning, contacting, or
 otherwise communicating with the petitioner;

(iv) Removing and excluding the respondent from the residence of the
 petitioner, regardless of the ownership of the residence;

(v) Ordering the respondent to stay away from any place specified bythe court;

(vi) Awarding the petitioner temporary custody of any minor children
 not to exceed ninety days;

(vii) Enjoining the respondent from possessing or purchasing a
firearm as defined in section 28-1201; or

30 (viii) Ordering such other relief deemed necessary to provide for31 the safety and welfare of the petitioner and any designated family or

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1 household member.

2 (b) The petition for a protection order shall state the events and 3 dates or approximate dates of acts constituting the alleged domestic 4 abuse, including the most recent and most severe incident or incidents.

5 (c) The protection order shall specify to whom relief under this6 section was granted.

7 (2) Petitions for protection orders shall be filed with the clerk of 8 the district court, and the proceeding may be heard by the county court 9 or the district court as provided in section 25-2740. A petition for a 10 protection order may not be withdrawn except upon order of the court.

(3)(a) A protection order shall specify that it is effective for a period of <u>five years</u> one year and, if the order grants temporary custody, the number of days of custody granted to the petitioner unless otherwise modified by the court.

(b)(i) Any victim of domestic abuse may file a petition and affidavit to renew a protection order. Such petition and affidavit for renewal shall be filed any time within forty-five days before the expiration of the previous protection order, including the date the order expires.

(ii) A protection order may be renewed on the basis of the petitioner's affidavit stating that there has been no material change in relevant circumstances since entry of the order and stating the reason for the requested renewal if:

24

(A) The petitioner seeks no modification of the order; and

(B)(I) The respondent has been properly served with notice of the petition for renewal and notice of hearing and fails to appear at the hearing; or

28 (II) The respondent indicates that he or she does not contest the 29 renewal.

30 (iii) Such renewed order shall specify that it is effective for a
 31 period of <u>five years</u> one year to commence on the first calendar day

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following the expiration of the previous order or on the calendar day the court grants the renewal if such day is subsequent to the first calendar day after expiration of the previous order and, if the court grants temporary custody, the number of days of custody granted to the petitioner unless otherwise modified by the court.

6 (4) Any person, except the petitioner, who knowingly violates a 7 protection order issued pursuant to this section or section 42-931 after 8 service or notice as described in subsection (2) of section 42-926 shall 9 be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor, except that any person convicted of 10 violating such order who has a prior conviction for violating a 11 protection order shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

12 (5) If there is any conflict between sections 42-924 to 42-926 and
13 any other provision of law, sections 42-924 to 42-926 shall govern.

Sec. 4. Section 42-924.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2020, is amended to read:

16 42-924.02 (1) The clerk of the district court shall make available standard petition and affidavit forms for all types of protection orders 17 provided by law with instructions for completion to be used by a 18 petitioner. Affidavit forms shall request all relevant information, 19 including, but not limited to: A description of the most recent incident 20 that was the basis for the application for a protection order and the 21 date or approximate date of the incident and, if there was more than one 22 incident, the most severe incident and the date or approximate date of 23 24 such incident. The clerk and his or her employees shall not provide assistance in completing the forms. The State Court Administrator shall 25 adopt and promulgate the standard petition and affidavit forms provided 26 for in this section as well as the standard temporary ex parte and final 27 protection order forms and provide a copy of such forms to all clerks of 28 the district courts in this state. These standard temporary ex parte and 29 final protection order forms shall be the only such forms used in this 30 31 state.

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1	(2) A petition and affidavit under section 42-924 or 42-925 are not
2	required to be signed and acknowledged before a notary public. A petition
3	and affidavit under such sections shall include a written, self-
4	authenticated declaration under penalty of perjury in substantially the
5	following form:
6	<u>I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and</u>
7	<u>correct.</u>
8	<u></u>
9	(Printed name of the petitioner)
10	<u></u>
11	(Signature of the petitioner)
12	<u></u>
13	<u>(Date signed)</u>
14	Sec. 5. Original sections 28-311.09, 28-311.11, 42-924, and
15	42-924.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, are repealed.