

SENATE FILE NO. SF0063

Sexual assault protection orders.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Cooper and Craft and
Representative(s) Berger, Burkhart, Coleman,
Connolly, Davison, Esquibel, K. and Throne

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; creating the
2 Sexual Assault Protection Order Act; providing for
3 injunction protection for victims of sexual assault;
4 providing definitions; providing for petitions without
5 court costs to the petitioner; providing for ex parte
6 temporary and final protection orders; providing a criminal
7 penalty for violation of protection orders; and providing
8 for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-21-201 through 35-21-213 are
13 created to read:

14

15

CHAPTER 21

16

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTECTION

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ARTICLE 2

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTECTION ORDERS

35-21-201. Short title.

This act may be cited as the "Sexual Assault Protection Order Act".

35-21-202. Definitions.

(a) The definitions provided in W.S. 6-2-301 shall apply to this act except to the extent they are specifically inconsistent with subsection (b) of this section.

(b) As used in this act:

(i) "Nonphysical contact" includes, but is not limited to, telephone calls, mail, e-mail, texting, fax or any other form of written or electronic communication;

1 (ii) "Petitioner" means any named petitioner for
2 the sexual assault protection order or any named victim of
3 sexual assault on whose behalf the petition is brought;

4
5 (iii) "Sexual assault" means any act made
6 criminal by W.S. 6-2-302 through 6-2-304 and 6-2-314
7 through 6-2-318 or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any
8 of those crimes;

9
10 (iv) "Sexual assault protection order" means an
11 ex parte temporary order or a final order granted under
12 this act and includes a remedy authorized by W.S.
13 35-21-207;

14
15 (v) "This act" means W.S. 35-21-201 through
16 35-21-213.

17
18 **35-21-203. Petition for a sexual assault protection**
19 **order; creation; contents; administration.**

20
21 (a) A victim of sexual assault may petition the court
22 under this act by filing a petition with the circuit court
23 clerk or the district court clerk.

24

1 (b) The petition shall be made under oath or be
2 accompanied by a sworn affidavit setting out specific facts
3 showing the alleged sexual assault and stating the specific
4 statements or actions made before, during or after the
5 sexual assault which give rise to a reasonable fear of
6 future dangerous acts. The petitioner shall disclose the
7 existence of any other litigation or any other restraining
8 or protection orders between the parties.

9

10 (c) No filing fee or other court costs or fees shall
11 be assessed or charged to a petitioner seeking an order of
12 protection under this act.

13

14 (d) The clerk of the court shall make available
15 standard petition forms with instructions for completion to
16 be used by a petitioner. The forms shall be prepared by
17 the victim services division within the office of the
18 attorney general and shall be distributed to the courts by
19 the supreme court. Upon receipt of the initial petition by
20 the clerk of the court, the clerk shall refer the matter to
21 the court. The petitioner may retain counsel or file pro
22 se or the court may appoint an attorney to assist and
23 advise the petitioner if the respondent is represented by
24 counsel. Any assistance or information provided by clerks

1 under this section shall not constitute the practice of law
2 and clerks are not responsible for incorrect information
3 contained in a petition.

4

5 (e) It shall not be a bar to filing a petition or
6 receiving an order of protection under this act that:

7

8 (i) A criminal or civil order is entered in a
9 case pending against the respondent or between the
10 petitioner and respondent; or

11

12 (ii) The petitioner has petitioned for or
13 received orders of protection in the past or that the
14 petitioner has withdrawn a petition or asked to have orders
15 rescinded.

16

17 (f) If the petition states that disclosure of the
18 petitioner's address would endanger the petitioner or any
19 member of the petitioner's family or household, that
20 address may be omitted from all documents filed with the
21 court. If the petitioner has not disclosed an address
22 under this subsection, the petitioner shall designate an
23 alternative address at which the respondent may serve
24 notice of any motions.

1

2 (g) Any ex parte temporary or final sexual assault
3 protection order issued under this act may be extended one
4 (1) or more times, as required. The petitioner may apply
5 for extension of the order by filing a petition for
6 extension at any time within the three (3) months before
7 the order expires. If the motion for extension is
8 uncontested and the petitioner seeks no modification of the
9 order, the order may be extended on the basis of the
10 petitioner's motion or affidavit stating that there has
11 been no material change in relevant circumstances since
12 entry of the order and stating the reason for the requested
13 extension. Extensions may be granted by the court, with
14 opportunity for hearing granted to the respondent within
15 ten (10) days of the extension being granted by the court.

16

17 (h) The remedies provided by this act are in addition
18 to any other civil or criminal remedy available to the
19 petitioner.

20

21 **35-21-204. Petition; who may file; venue.**

22

23 (a) A petition for a protection order under this act
24 may be filed by a person:

1

2 (i) Who does not qualify for a domestic violence
3 protection order and who is a victim of sexual assault,
4 including a single incident of sexual assault; or

5

6 (ii) On behalf of any one (1) of the following
7 who is a victim of sexual assault and who does not qualify
8 for a domestic violence protection order:

9

10 (A) A minor child;

11

12 (B) A vulnerable adult as defined in W.S.
13 35-20-102(a)(xviii);

14

15 (C) Any other adult who, because of age,
16 disability, health or inaccessibility, cannot file the
17 petition.

18

19 (b) An action under this act shall be filed in the
20 county where the petitioner resides.

21

22 **35-21-205. Petition; hearings prior to issuance of**
23 **protection order.**

24

1 Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall order a
2 hearing which shall be held not later than fourteen (14)
3 days from the date of the order. The court may schedule a
4 hearing by telephone in order to reasonably accommodate a
5 disability or in exceptional circumstances to protect a
6 petitioner from further sexual assault. The court shall
7 require assurances of the petitioner's identity before
8 conducting a telephonic hearing. Except as provided in
9 W.S. 35-21-208, personal service shall be made upon the
10 respondent not less than seven (7) days prior to the
11 hearing. If timely personal service cannot be made, the
12 court shall set a new hearing date and shall require
13 additional attempts at obtaining personal service.

14

15 **35-21-206. Sexual assault advocates.**

16

17 Sexual assault advocates, as defined in W.S. 1-12-116,
18 shall be allowed to accompany the victim and confer with
19 the victim, unless otherwise directed by the court. Court
20 administrators shall allow sexual assault advocates to
21 assist victims of sexual assault in the preparation of
22 petitions for sexual assault protection orders. Sexual
23 assault advocates shall not be deemed to be engaged in the
24 unauthorized practice of law when providing assistance of

1 the types specified in this section. Communications between
2 the petitioner and a sexual assault advocate are protected
3 as provided by W.S. 1-12-116.

4

5 **35-21-207. Burden of proof; issuance of protection**
6 **order; remedies; violations.**

7

8 (a) If the court finds by a preponderance of the
9 evidence that the petitioner has been a victim of sexual
10 assault by the respondent, the court shall issue a sexual
11 assault protection order, provided that the petitioner
12 shall also satisfy the requirements of W.S. 35-21-208 for
13 ex parte temporary orders.

14

15 (b) The petitioner shall not be denied a sexual
16 assault protection order because the petitioner or the
17 respondent is a minor or because the petitioner did not
18 report the assault to law enforcement.

19

20 (c) In issuing a sexual assault protection order, the
21 court may include any one (1) or more of the following
22 provisions:

23

1 (i) Restraining the respondent from having any
2 contact, including nonphysical contact, with the petitioner
3 directly, indirectly or through third parties regardless of
4 whether those third parties know of the order;

5

6 (ii) Excluding the respondent from the
7 petitioner's residence, workplace or school or from the day
8 care or school of a child, if the victim is a child;

9

10 (iii) Notwithstanding paragraph (ii) of this
11 subsection, if petitioner and respondent are employed at
12 the same location or attend the same school, providing
13 conditions or restrictions that will protect the petitioner
14 while allowing the respondent to continue employment or
15 attendance, if practical;

16

17 (iv) Prohibiting the respondent from knowingly
18 coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified
19 distance from a specified location;

20

21 (v) Ordering any other injunctive relief as
22 necessary or appropriate for the protection of the
23 petitioner.

24

1 (d) In cases where the petitioner and the respondent
2 are under the age of eighteen (18) years of age and attend
3 the same public or private elementary, middle or high
4 school, the court, when issuing a protection order and
5 providing relief, shall consider, among the other facts of
6 the case, the severity of the act, any continuing physical
7 danger or emotional distress to the petitioner and the
8 expense, difficulty and educational disruption that would
9 be caused by a transfer of the respondent to another
10 school. The court may order that the person restrained in
11 the order not attend the school attended by the person
12 under the age of eighteen (18) protected by the order. If
13 the court orders a transfer of the restrained person to
14 another school, the parents or legal guardians of the
15 person restrained in the order shall be responsible for
16 transportation and other costs associated with the change
17 of school under the order. The court shall send notice of
18 the order to the school the person restrained by the order
19 will attend and to the school the person protected by the
20 order attends.

21

22 (e) Monetary damages are not recoverable as a remedy
23 under this act. The court may require the respondent to pay
24 costs and fees incurred in an action pursuant to this act

1 including reasonable attorney's fees whether the attorney
2 is court appointed or retained by petitioner.

3

4 (f) Willful violation of an order of protection
5 issued under this act is a crime as defined by W.S.
6 6-4-404.

7

8 (g) If the court determines that the petition is
9 frivolous or the allegations in the petition are false, it
10 may require petitioner to pay costs and fees incurred in an
11 action pursuant to this act including reasonable attorney's
12 fees whether the attorney is court appointed or retained by
13 petitioner.

14

15 **35-21-208. Ex parte temporary sexual assault**
16 **protection orders; issuance.**

17

18 (a) An ex parte temporary sexual assault protection
19 order shall be issued if the petitioner satisfies the
20 requirements of this subsection by a preponderance of the
21 evidence that:

22

23 (i) The petitioner has been a victim of sexual
24 assault by the respondent; and

1

2 (ii) There is good cause to grant the remedy,
3 regardless of the lack of prior service of process or of
4 notice upon the respondent, because the harm which that
5 remedy is intended to prevent would be likely to occur if
6 the respondent were given any prior notice or greater
7 notice than was actually given, of the petitioner's efforts
8 to obtain judicial relief.

9

10 (b) An ex parte temporary sexual assault protection
11 order shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed
12 fourteen (14) days. A full hearing, as provided in this
13 act, shall be set for not later than fourteen (14) days
14 from the issuance of the temporary order. Except as
15 provided in W.S. 35-21-205, the respondent shall be
16 personally served with a copy of the ex parte temporary
17 sexual assault protection order along with a copy of the
18 petition and notice of the date set for the hearing.

19

20 (c) Any ex parte temporary order issued under this
21 section shall contain the date and time of issuance and the
22 expiration date, shall be filed with the clerk of court and
23 a copy shall be sent by the clerk to the county sheriff who
24 shall, after service, notify the local law enforcement

1 agency within the county in which the petitioner resides.
2 The order shall be personally served upon the respondent,
3 unless he or his attorney was present at the time the order
4 was issued.

5

6 **35-21-209. Sexual assault protection orders;**
7 **contents.**

8

9 (a) A sexual assault protection order shall include:

10

11 (i) The name of the petitioner that the court
12 finds was the victim of sexual assault by the respondent;

13

14 (ii) The date and time the sexual assault
15 protection order was issued, whether it is an ex parte
16 temporary or final order and a statement that the order
17 remains in effect for up to fourteen (14) days from the
18 date it was issued for a temporary order and for up to one
19 (1) year from the date it was issued for a final order;

20

21 (iii) The date, time and place for any scheduled
22 hearing for extension of that sexual assault protection
23 order or for another order of greater duration or scope;

24

1 (iv) For each remedy in an ex parte temporary
2 sexual assault protection order, the reason for entering
3 that remedy without prior notice to the respondent or
4 greater notice than was actually given;

5

6 (v) The identity of each law enforcement agency
7 to which a copy of the sexual assault protection order
8 shall be delivered;

9

10 (vi) For ex parte temporary sexual assault
11 protection orders, that the respondent may petition the
12 court to reopen the order if he did not receive actual
13 prior notice of the hearing and if the respondent alleges
14 that he had a meritorious defense to the order or that the
15 order or its remedy is not authorized by this act;

16

17 (vii) The following notice, printed in
18 conspicuous type:

19

20 "A willful violation of this sexual assault protection
21 order is a criminal offense under W.S. 6-4-404 and will
22 subject a violator to arrest. You can be arrested even if
23 any person protected by the order invites or allows you to
24 violate the order's prohibitions. You have the sole

1 responsibility to avoid or refrain from violating the
2 order's provisions. Only the court can change the order."

3

4 **35-21-210. Court initiated issuance of sexual assault**
5 **protection orders.**

6

7 (a) When any person who is charged with or arrested
8 for a sexual assault made criminal pursuant to W.S. 6-2-302
9 through 6-2-319, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit a
10 criminal sexual assault, is released from custody before
11 arraignment or trial on bail or personal recognizance, the
12 court authorizing the release shall impose such conditions
13 as appropriate to protect the alleged victim.

14

15 (b) A written order prohibiting contact as provided
16 in subsection (a) of this section shall contain the court's
17 directives and shall include the following notice, printed
18 in conspicuous type:

19

20 "Violation of this order is a criminal offense under
21 W.S. 6-4-404 and will subject a violator to arrest. You
22 can be arrested even if any person protected by the order
23 invites or allows you to violate the order's prohibitions.
24 You have the sole responsibility to avoid or refrain from

1 violating the order's provisions. Only the court can
2 change the order."

3

4 (c) When a defendant is found guilty of a sexual
5 assault pursuant to W.S. 6-2-302 through 6-2-319, or an
6 attempt or conspiracy to commit a criminal sexual assault,
7 and a condition of the sentence restricts the defendant's
8 ability to have contact with the victim, the condition
9 shall be recorded as a sexual assault protection order as
10 provided in W.S. 35-21-209.

11

12 **35-21-211. Modification or termination of protection**
13 **orders.**

14

15 Upon application with notice to all parties and after a
16 hearing, the court may modify the terms of an existing
17 sexual assault protection order. In any situation where an
18 order is terminated or modified before its expiration date,
19 the clerk of the court shall forward on or before the next
20 judicial day a true copy of the modified order or the
21 termination order to the appropriate law enforcement agency
22 specified in the modified or termination order.

23

1 **35-21-212. Admissibility of ex parte temporary orders**
2 **in civil actions.**

3

4 An ex parte temporary order issued under this act shall not
5 be admissible as evidence in any subsequent criminal action
6 or civil action for damages arising from the conduct
7 alleged in the petition or the order.

8

9 **35-21-213. Evidence.**

10

11 (a) In proceedings for a sexual assault protection
12 order and prosecutions for violating a sexual assault
13 protection order, the prior sexual activity or the
14 reputation of the petitioner is inadmissible except:

15

16 (i) As evidence concerning the past sexual
17 conduct of the petitioner with the respondent when this
18 evidence is offered by the respondent upon the issue of
19 whether the petitioner consented to the sexual conduct with
20 respect to which the offense is alleged; or

21

22 (ii) When constitutionally required to be
23 admitted.

24

1 (b) No evidence admissible under this section may be
2 introduced unless ruled admissible by the court after an
3 offer of proof has been made at a hearing held in camera to
4 determine whether the respondent has evidence to impeach
5 the witness in the event that prior sexual activity with
6 the respondent is denied. The offer of proof shall include
7 reasonably specific information as to the date, time and
8 place of or other relevant specific information relevant to
9 the past sexual conduct between the petitioner and the
10 respondent. Unless the court finds that reasonably
11 specific information has been offered as to prior sexual
12 activity with the respondent, counsel for the respondent
13 shall be ordered to refrain from inquiring into prior
14 sexual activity between the petitioner and the respondent.
15 The evidence shall be of the type admissible at trial
16 subject to the limitations or restrictions that may be
17 imposed by the court.

18

19 **Section 2.** W.S. 6-4-404(b) is amended to read:

20

21 **6-4-404. Violation of order of protection; penalty.**

22

23 (b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section,
24 "protection order" means an order of protection issued

1 pursuant to W.S. 35-21-104, ~~or~~ 35-21-105, 35-21-207,
2 35-21-208 or 35-21-210 or any injunction or other order
3 issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening
4 acts or harassment against, or contact or communication
5 with or physical proximity to, another person, including
6 temporary and final orders issued by civil and criminal
7 courts, other than support or child custody orders, whether
8 obtained by filing an independent action or as a pendente
9 lite order in another proceeding so long as any civil order
10 was issued in response to a complaint, petition or motion
11 filed by or on behalf of a person seeking protection.

12

13 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2014.

14

15

(END)