STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2561 By: Peters

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to domestic violence; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7003-3.7, which relates to representation by counsel, guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates; requiring annual, specialized training for certain persons; amending 12 O.S. 2001, Section 1633, which relates to change of name; providing exception for publication of notice for domestic violence victims; amending 21 O.S. 2001, Section 644, as last amended by Section 9, Chapter 348, O.S.L. 2005 (21 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 644), which relates to assault, assault and battery, and domestic abuse; modifying scope of treatment or counseling requirement; amending 43 O.S. 2001, Sections 107.3, as last amended by Section 20, Chapter 3, O.S.L. 2003, 109, 111.1 and Section 8, Chapter 400, O.S.L. 2002 (43 O.S. Supp. 2005, Sections 107.3 and 112.3), which relate to appointment of guardian ad litem, awarding custody of children, minimum visitation, and notice of change of residence; requiring annual, specialized training for certain persons; providing for determination of domestic violence; providing for admissibility of certain convictions and orders; stating factors to be considered by the court; defining term; authorizing visitation under certain circumstances; providing guidelines for visitation order; requiring termination of visitation under certain circumstances; requiring address be kept confidential upon request; prohibiting access to certain records; providing for finding of domestic violence; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7003-3.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7003-3.7

A. 1. a. If the parents, legal guardian or custodian of the child requests an attorney and is found to be without sufficient financial means, counsel shall be appointed by the court if a petition has been filed alleging that the child is a deprived child or if termination

of parental rights is a possible remedy; provided that the court may appoint counsel without such request, if it deems representation by counsel necessary to protect the interest of the parents, legal guardian or custodian.

b. The court shall not be required to appoint an attorney for any person other than for the parents, legal guardian or custodian of the child pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph.

2. a. Whenever a petition is filed pursuant to the provisions of this part, the court shall appoint a separate attorney, who shall not be a district attorney, regardless of any attempted waiver by the parent, legal guardian or custodian of the child of the right of the child to be represented by counsel. The parent, legal guardian or custodian shall not select the child's attorney. If financially capable, the parent, legal guardian or custodian shall reimburse the Court Fund for the services of a court-appointed attorney for the child.

b. The attorney appointed for the child shall make arrangements to meet with the child as soon as possible after receiving notification of the appointment. Except for good cause shown, the attorney shall meet with the child not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to any hearing in such proceeding. The attorney may speak with the child over the telephone if a personal visit is not possible due to exigent circumstances. If a meaningful attorney-client relationship between the child and the attorney is prohibited due to age or disability of the

child, the attorney shall contact the custodian or caretaker of the child prior to the hearing.

c. The attorney shall be given access to all reports, records and other information relevant to the case and to any reports of examination of the child's parents, legal guardian or custodian made pursuant to this section. The attorney shall represent the child and any expressed interests of the child. The attorney shall make such further inquiry as the attorney deems necessary to ascertain the facts, to interview witnesses, examine and cross-examine witnesses, make recommendations to the court and participate further in the proceedings to the degree appropriate for adequately representing the interests of the child.

3. The attorney shall be allowed a reasonable fee for such services as determined by the court, as authorized by law.

B. 1. Whenever a petition is filed alleging that a child is a deprived child, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child at any time subsequent to the filing of the petition or for any other action related to the child.

2. The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem upon the request of the child, the attorney of the child, the Department of Human Services, a licensed child-placing agency, or any other party to the action.

3. A guardian ad litem shall not be a district attorney, an employee of the office of the district attorney, the child's attorney, an employee of the court, an employee of a juvenile bureau, or an employee of any public agency having duties or responsibilities towards the child.

4. The guardian ad litem shall be appointed to objectively advocate on behalf of the child and act as an officer of the court to investigate all matters concerning the best interests of the

child. In addition to other duties required by the court and as specified by the court, a guardian ad litem shall have the following responsibilities:

a. review documents, reports, records and other information relevant to the case, meet with and observe the child in appropriate settings, and interview parents, foster parents, health care providers, child protective services workers and any other person with knowledge relevant to the case,

b. advocate for the child's best interests by participating in the case, attending any hearings in the matter and advocating for appropriate services for the child when necessary,

c. maintain the confidentiality of information related to a case as required by Article 7 of the Oklahoma Children's Code,

d. monitor the child's best interests throughout any judicial proceeding, and

e. present written reports on the child's best interests that include conclusions and recommendations and the facts upon which they are based.

5. The guardian ad litem shall be given access to the court files and agency files and access to all documents, reports, records and other information relevant to the case and to any records and reports of examination of the child's parent or other custodian, made pursuant to the laws relating to child abuse and neglect including reports generated by service providers.

C. 1. Whenever a court-appointed special advocate program is available to the court to serve as a guardian ad litem, priority shall be given to appointment of the court-appointed special advocate to serve as guardian ad litem for the child regardless of

whether a guardian ad litem has been requested pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

2. If an attorney is appointed as a guardian ad litem, the attorney shall obtain six (6) hours of specialized training every year in the fields of child abuse, child development, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and child behavioral health and management. The attorney shall attend at least one (1) hour of such training in each of these five fields each year and shall attend and demonstrate attendance of at least three (3) hours of such training in each of the fields prior to accepting further appointments as a guardian ad litem.

3. A Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program shall be made available to each judicial district.

~~3.~~ 4. For purposes of the Oklahoma Children's Code, the terms "court-appointed special advocate" and “guardian ad litem” shall have the same function. In like manner, a court-appointed special advocate, except as specifically otherwise provided by law or by the court, shall have the same power, duties and responsibilities as assigned to a guardian ad litem by law and shall have such other qualifications, duties and responsibilities as may be prescribed by rule by the Supreme Court.

~~4.~~ 5. A court-appointed special advocate shall serve without compensation.

6. If a person is appointed as a court-appointed special advocate, the person shall obtain six (6) hours of specialized training every year in the fields of child abuse, child development, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and child behavioral health and management. The person shall attend at least one (1) hour of such training in each of these five fields each year and shall attend and demonstrate attendance of at least three (3) hours of such training in each of the fields prior to accepting further appointments as a court-appointed special advocate.

7. If a person is appointed as a parenting coordinator, the person shall obtain six (6) hours of specialized training every year in the fields of child abuse, child development, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and child behavioral health and management. The person shall attend at least one (1) hour of such training in each of these five fields each year and shall attend and demonstrate attendance of at least three (3) hours of such training in each of the fields prior to accepting further appointments as a parenting coordinator.

D. 1. Any person participating in a judicial proceeding as a court-appointed special advocate shall be presumed prima facie to be acting in good faith and in so doing shall be immune from any civil liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed.

2. Any person serving in a management position of a court-appointed special advocate organization, including a member of the Board of Directors acting in good faith, shall be immune from any civil liability or any vicarious liability for the negligence of any court-appointed special advocate organization advocates, managers, or directors.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to adoption proceedings and actions to terminate parental rights which do not involve a petition for deprived status of the child. Such proceedings and actions shall be governed by the Oklahoma Adoption Code.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2001, Section 1633, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1633. A. Notice of filing of ~~such~~ the petition shall be given, in the manner provided for publication notice in civil cases, by publishing the same one time at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing in some newspaper authorized by law to publish legal notices printed in the county where the petition is filed if there be any printed in such county, and if there be none,

then in some such newspaper printed in this state of general circulation in that county. The notice shall contain the style and number of the case, the time, date and place where the same is to be heard, and that any person may file a written protest in the case prior to the date set for the hearing. The hearing date may be any day after completion of the publication. The court or judge, for cause, may continue the matter to a later date.

B. The court may waive the publication requirements of this section for good cause which includes, but is not limited to, cases of domestic violence in which the court proceedings are sealed.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2001, Section 644, as last amended by Section 9, Chapter 348, O.S.L. 2005 (21 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 644), is amended to read as follows:

Section 644. A. Assault shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days, or by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

B. Assault and battery shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding ninety (90) days, or by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

C. Any person who commits any assault and battery against a current or former spouse, a present spouse of a former spouse, parents, a foster parent, a child, a person otherwise related by blood or marriage, a person with whom the defendant is in a dating relationship as defined by Section 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, an individual with whom the defendant has had a child, a person who formerly lived in the same household as the defendant, or a person living in the same household as the defendant shall be guilty of domestic abuse. Upon conviction, the defendant shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars

($5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction for a second or subsequent offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than four (4) years, or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. The provisions of Section 51.1 of this title shall not apply to any second or subsequent offense.

D. Any person convicted of domestic abuse as defined in subsection C of this section that results in great bodily injury to the victim shall be guilty of a felony and punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than ten (10) years, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year. The provisions of Section 51.1 of this title shall apply to any second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this subsection.

E. Any person convicted of domestic abuse as defined in subsection C of this section that was committed in the presence of a child shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year, or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent domestic abuse as defined in subsection C of this section that was committed in the presence of a child shall be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years, or by a fine not exceeding Seven Thousand Dollars ($7,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. The provisions of Section 51.1 of this title shall not apply to any second or subsequent offense. For every conviction of domestic abuse, the court shall:

1. Specifically order as a condition of a suspended sentence or probation that a defendant participate in counseling or undergo

treatment to bring about the cessation of domestic abuse as specified in paragraph 2 of this subsection;

2. a. The court shall require the defendant to participate in counseling or undergo treatment for domestic abuse by an individual licensed practitioner ~~or a domestic abuse counseling program approved by the court~~ or a domestic abuse treatment program certified by the Attorney General. If the defendant is ordered to participate in a domestic abuse counseling or treatment program, the order shall require the defendant to attend the program for a minimum of fifty-two (52) weeks, complete the program, and be evaluated before and after attendance of the program by a program counselor or a private counselor.

b. A program for anger management, couples counseling, or family and marital counseling shall not solely qualify for the counseling or treatment requirement for domestic abuse pursuant to this subsection. The counseling may be ordered in addition to counseling specifically for the treatment of domestic abuse or per evaluation as set forth below. If, after sufficient evaluation and attendance at required counseling sessions, the domestic violence treatment program or licensed professional determines that the defendant does not evaluate as a perpetrator of domestic violence or does evaluate as a perpetrator of domestic violence and should complete other programs of treatment simultaneously or prior to domestic violence treatment, including but not limited to programs related to the mental health, apparent substance or alcohol abuse or inability or refusal to manage anger, the defendant shall be ordered to

complete the counseling as per the recommendations of the domestic violence treatment program or licensed professional;

3. a. The court shall set a review hearing no more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the defendant is ordered to participate in a domestic abuse counseling program or undergo treatment for domestic abuse to assure the attendance and compliance of the defendant with the provisions of this subsection and the domestic abuse counseling or treatment requirements.

b. The court shall set a second review hearing after the completion of the counseling or treatment to assure the attendance and compliance of the defendant with the provisions of this subsection and the domestic abuse counseling or treatment requirements. The court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the defendant during the course of ordered counseling through the final review hearing;

4. The court may set subsequent or other review hearings as the court determines necessary to assure the defendant attends and fully complies with the provisions of this subsection and the domestic abuse counseling or treatment requirements;

5. At any review hearing, if the defendant is not satisfactorily attending individual counseling or a domestic abuse counseling or treatment program or is not in compliance with any domestic abuse counseling or treatment requirements, the court may order the defendant to further or continue counseling, treatment, or other necessary services. The court may revoke all or any part of a suspended sentence, deferred sentence, or probation pursuant to Section 991b of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes and subject the defendant to any or all remaining portions of the original sentence;

6. At the first review hearing, the court shall require the defendant to appear in court. Thereafter, for any subsequent review hearings, the court may accept a report on the progress of the defendant from individual counseling, domestic abuse counseling, or the treatment program. There shall be no requirement for the victim to attend review hearings; and

7. If funding is available, a referee may be appointed and assigned by the presiding judge of the district court to hear designated cases set for review under this subsection. Reasonable compensation for the referees shall be fixed by the presiding judge. The referee shall meet the requirements and perform all duties in the same manner and procedure as set forth in Sections 7003-8.6 and 7303-7.5 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes pertaining to referees appointed in juvenile proceedings.

The defendant may be required to pay all or part of the cost of the counseling or treatment, in the discretion of the court.

F. As used in subsection E of this section, "in the presence of a child" means in the physical presence of a child; or having knowledge that a child is present and may see or hear an act of domestic violence. For the purposes of subsections C and E of this section, "child" may be any child whether or not related to the victim or the defendant.

G. For the purposes of subsections C and E of this section, any conviction for assault and battery against a current or former spouse, a present spouse of a former spouse, parents, a foster parent, a child, a person otherwise related by blood or marriage, a person with whom the defendant is in a dating relationship as defined by Section 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, an individual with whom the defendant has had a child, a person who formerly lived in the same household as the defendant, or any person living in the same household as the defendant, shall constitute a sufficient basis for a felony charge:

1. If that conviction is rendered in any state, county or parish court of record of this or any other state; or

2. If that conviction is rendered in any municipal court of record of this or any other state for which any jail time was served; provided, no conviction in a municipal court of record entered prior to November 1, 1997, shall constitute a prior conviction for purposes of a felony charge.

H. Any person who commits any assault and battery with intent to cause great bodily harm by strangulation or attempted strangulation against a current or former spouse, a present spouse of a former spouse, parents, a foster parent, a child, a person otherwise related by blood or marriage, a person with whom the defendant is in a dating relationship as defined by Section 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, an individual with whom the defendant has had a child, a person who formerly lived in the same household as the defendant, or a person living in the same household as the defendant shall, upon conviction, be guilty of domestic abuse by strangulation and shall be punished by imprisonment in the ~~State Penitentiary~~ custody of the Department of Corrections for a period of not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3) years, or by a fine of not more than Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the defendant shall be punished by imprisonment in the ~~State Penitentiary~~ custody of the Department of Corrections for a period of not less than three (3) years nor more than ten (10) years, or by a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. As used in this subsection, "strangulation" means a form of asphyxia characterized by closure of the blood vessels or air passages of the neck as a result of external pressure on the neck.

I. Any district court of this state and any judge thereof shall be immune from any liability or prosecution for issuing an order that requires a defendant to:

1. Attend a treatment program for domestic abusers certified by the Attorney General;

2. Attend counseling or treatment services ordered as part of any suspended or deferred sentence or probation; and

3. Attend, complete, and be evaluated before and after attendance by a treatment program for domestic abusers, certified by the Attorney General.

J. There shall be no charge of fees or costs to any victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault in connection with the prosecution of a domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault offense in this state.

K. In the course of prosecuting any charge of domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, rape, or violation of a protective order, the prosecutor shall provide the court, prior to sentencing or any plea agreement, a local history and any other available history of past convictions of the defendant within the last ten (10) years relating to domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, rape, violation of a protective order, or any other violent misdemeanor or felony convictions.

L. For purposes of subsection D of this section, "great bodily injury" means bone fracture, protracted and obvious disfigurement, protracted loss or impairment of the function of a body part, organ or mental faculty, or substantial risk of death.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 107.3, as last amended by Section 20, Chapter 3, O.S.L. 2003 (43 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 107.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 107.3 A. 1. In any proceeding when the custody or visitation of a minor child or children is contested by any party, the court may appoint an attorney at law as guardian ad litem ~~on the~~

~~court's~~ upon motion of the court or upon application of any party to appear for and represent the minor children.

2. The guardian ad litem may be appointed to objectively advocate on behalf of the child and act as an officer of the court to investigate all matters concerning the best interests of the child. In addition to other duties required by the court and as specified by the court, a guardian ad litem shall have the following responsibilities:

a. review documents, reports, records and other information relevant to the case, meet with and observe the child in appropriate settings, and interview parents, caregivers and health care providers and any other person with knowledge relevant to the case including, but not limited to, teachers, counselors and child care providers,

b. advocate for the ~~child's~~ best interests of the child by participating in the case, attending any hearings in the matter and advocating for appropriate services for the child when necessary,

c. monitor the ~~child's~~ best interests of the child throughout any judicial proceeding,

d. present written reports to the parties and court prior to trial or at any other time as specified by the court on the ~~child's~~ best interests of the child that include conclusions and recommendations and the facts upon which they are based, and

e. the guardian ad litem shall, as much as possible, maintain confidentiality of information related to the case and is not subject to discovery pursuant to the Oklahoma Discovery Code.

3. Expenses, costs, and ~~attorney's~~ attorney fees for the guardian ad litem may be allocated among the parties as determined by the court.

4. If an attorney is appointed as a guardian ad litem, the attorney shall obtain six (6) hours of specialized training in the fields of child abuse, child development, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child behavioral health and management. The attorney shall attend at least one (1) hour of such training in each of these five fields each year and shall attend and demonstrate attendance of at least three (3) hours of such training in each of the fields prior to accepting further appointments as a guardian at litem.

B. When property, separate maintenance, or custody is at issue, the court:

1. May refer the issue or issues to mediation if feasible unless a party asserts or it appears to the court that domestic violence or child abuse has occurred, in which event the court shall halt or suspend professional mediation unless the court specifically finds that:

a. the following three conditions are satisfied:

(1) the professional mediator has substantial training concerning the effects of domestic violence or child abuse on victims,

(2) a party who is or alleges to be the victim of domestic violence is capable of negotiating with the other party in mediation, either alone or with assistance, without suffering an imbalance of power as a result of the alleged domestic violence, and

(3) the mediation process contains appropriate provisions and conditions to protect against an imbalance of power between parties resulting from the alleged domestic violence or child abuse, or

b. in the case of domestic violence involving parents, the parent who is or alleges to be the victim requests mediation and the mediator is informed of the alleged domestic violence; and

2. When custody is at issue, the court may order, in addition to or in lieu of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection, that each of the parties undergo individual counseling in a manner that the court deems appropriate, if the court finds that the parties can afford the counseling.

C. As used in this section:

1. "Child abuse or neglect" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by the Oklahoma Child Abuse Reporting and Prevention Act or shall mean the child has been adjudicated deprived as a result of the actions or omission of either parent pursuant to the Oklahoma Children’s Code; and

2. "Domestic violence" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act.

D. During any proceeding concerning child custody, should it be determined by the court that a party has intentionally made a false or frivolous accusation to the court of child abuse or neglect against the other party, the court shall proceed with any or all of the following:

1. Find the accusing party in contempt for perjury and refer for prosecution;

2. Consider the false allegations in determining custody; and

3. Award the obligation to pay all court costs and legal expenses encumbered by both parties arising from the allegations to the accusing party.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 109, is amended to read as follows:

Section 109. A. In awarding the custody of a minor unmarried child or in appointing a general guardian for said child, the court

shall consider what appears to be in the best interests of the physical and mental and moral welfare of the child.

B. The court, pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of this section, may grant the care, custody, and control of a child to either parent or to the parents jointly.

For the purposes of this section, the terms joint custody and joint care, custody, and control mean the sharing by parents in all or some of the aspects of physical and legal care, custody, and control of their children.

C. If either or both parents have requested joint custody, said parents shall file with the court their plans for the exercise of joint care, custody, and control of their child. The parents of the child may submit a plan jointly, or either parent or both parents may submit separate plans. Any plan shall include but is not limited to provisions detailing the physical living arrangements for the child, child support obligations, medical and dental care for the child, school placement, and visitation rights. A plan shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by each parent stating that said parent agrees to the plan and will abide by its terms. The plan and affidavit shall be filed with the petition for a divorce or legal separation or after said petition is filed.

D. The court shall issue a final plan for the exercise of joint care, custody, and control of the child or children, based upon the plan submitted by the parents, separate or jointly, with appropriate changes deemed by the court to be in the best interests of the child. The court also may reject a request for joint custody and proceed as if the request for joint custody had not been made.

E. The parents having joint custody of the child may modify the terms of the plan for joint care, custody, and control. The modification to the plan shall be filed with the court and included with the plan. If the court determines the modifications are in the

best interests of the child, the court shall approve the modifications.

F. The court also may modify the terms of the plan for joint care, custody, and control upon the request of one parent. The court shall not modify the plan unless the modifications are in the best interests of the child.

G. 1. The court may terminate a joint custody decree upon the request of one or both of the parents or whenever the court determines said decree is not in the best interests of the child.

2. Upon termination of a joint custody decree, the court shall proceed and issue a modified decree for the care, custody, and control of the child as if no such joint custody decree had been made.

H. In the event of a dispute between the parents having joint custody of a child as to the interpretation of a provision of said plan, the court may appoint an arbitrator to resolve said dispute. The arbitrator shall be a disinterested person knowledgeable in domestic relations law and family counseling. The determination of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties to the proceedings until further order of the court.

If a parent refuses to consent to arbitration, the court may terminate the joint custody decree.

I. In every proceeding where there is at issue a dispute as to the custody of a minor child, a determination by the court or by a previous court in a civil or criminal action that domestic violence has occurred raises a rebuttable presumption that it is detrimental to the child and not in the best interest of the child to be placed in the sole custody, joint legal or physical custody, or any shared parenting plan with the perpetrator of domestic violence and that it is in the best interest of a child to reside with the parent who is not a perpetrator of domestic violence. The requirements of this subsection are in addition to the requirements and mandatory

considerations in Section 112.2 of this title. Further, evidence of any conviction of the parent who is alleged to be a perpetrator of any domestic violence or sexual assault crime committed against any person within the last ten (10) years including, but not limited to, domestic assault and battery, domestic assault and battery in the presence of a minor child, domestic assault and battery resulting in great bodily harm, domestic assault and battery resulting in great bodily harm by strangulation, violation of protective order, stalking, rape, rape by instrumentation, sexual molestation of a child, abuse or neglect of a child, shall be admissible in every proceeding concerning custody, visitation, or guardianship of a minor child. Evidence that a protective order has been issued against the perpetrator to protect a victim, a minor child, or another person shall also be admissible.

1. For purposes of this section, "domestic violence" means the threat of the infliction of physical injury, or any act of physical harm or the creation of a reasonable fear thereof, or the intentional infliction of emotional distress by a parent or a present or former member of the household, against the child or another member of the household.

2. If a parent is absent or relocates because of an act of domestic violence by the other parent, the absence or relocation shall not be a factor that weighs against the parent in determining custody, visitation or guardianship.

3. If a parent chooses to file a petition for a protective order to protect the parent or minor child or both, such an action shall not be a factor that weighs against the parent in determining custody, visitation or guardianship unless there is a showing that the parent has knowingly, frivolously, and intentionally filed a petition for a protective order as prohibited in subsection H of Section 60.4 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

4. The court shall consider as primary the safety and well-being of the child and of the parent who is the victim of domestic violence, in addition to other facts regarding the best interest of the child.

5. The court shall consider the history of the perpetrator in causing physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or causing the fear of physical harm, bodily injury, or assault to another person, including the minor child, the other parent, and any other person, in determining issues regarding custody, visitation and guardianship.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 111.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 111.1 A. 1. Any order providing for the visitation of a noncustodial parent with any of the children of such noncustodial parent shall provide a specified minimum amount of visitation between the noncustodial parent and the child unless the court determines otherwise.

2. Except for good cause shown and when in the best interests of the child, the order shall encourage additional visitations of the noncustodial parent and the child and in addition encourage liberal telephone communications between the noncustodial parent and the child. A court may award visitation by a parent who committed domestic violence, as defined in paragraph 1 of subsection I of Section 109 of this title, only if the court finds that adequate provisions for the safety of the child and the parent, who is a victim of domestic violence, can be made.

3. In a visitation order, a court shall provide for the safety of the minor child and victim of domestic violence and may:

a. order the exchange of a child to be facilitated by a third party where the parents do not have any contact with each other with any costs of such exchange to be paid by the perpetrator of the violence,

b. order the exchange of a child to occur in a protected setting with any costs of such exchange to be paid by the perpetrator of the violence,

c. order visitation supervised by another person or agency with any costs of such exchange to be paid by the perpetrator of the violence,

d. order the perpetrator of domestic violence to pay a fee to help defray the costs of supervised visitation or other costs of child exchanges, including compensating third parties,

e. order the perpetrator of domestic violence to attend and complete, to the satisfaction of the court, a program of intervention for perpetrators of domestic violence, certified by the Office of the Attorney General,

f. prohibit unsupervised or overnight visitation until the perpetrator of domestic violence has successfully completed a specialized program for abusers and the perpetrator has neither threatened nor exhibited violence toward any minor child, the other party or any other person for a substantial period of time,

g. order the perpetrator of domestic violence to abstain from the possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances during the visitation and for twenty-four (24) hours preceding the visitation, and

h. impose any other condition that is deemed necessary to provide for the safety of the child, the victim of domestic violence, or other household member.

4. Visitation shall be terminated in any of the following situations:

a. when there are repeated violations by the perpetrator of domestic violence of the terms and conditions of visitation,

b. if the child becomes severely distressed in response to visitation, including the determination by a mental health professional or certified domestic violence specialist, that visitation with the perpetrator of domestic violence is causing the child severe distress, and

c. if there are clear indications that the perpetrator of domestic violence has threatened to either harm or flee with the child.

5. Whether or not visitation is allowed, the court shall order the address of the child and the victim to be kept confidential if requested. An abusing noncustodial parent may be denied access to the medical and educational records of the child if the records might be used to determine the location of the child.

B. 1. Except for good cause shown, when a noncustodial parent who is ordered to pay child support and who is awarded visitation rights fails to pay child support, the custodial parent shall not refuse to honor the noncustodial parent's visitation rights.

2. When a custodial parent refuses to honor a noncustodial parent's visitation rights, the noncustodial parent shall not fail to pay any ordered child support or alimony.

C. 1. Violation of an order providing for the payment of child support or providing for the visitation of a noncustodial parent with any of the children of such noncustodial parent may be prosecuted as indirect civil contempt pursuant to Section 566 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the court.

2. Unless good cause is shown for the noncompliance, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover court costs and

attorney fees expended in enforcing the order and any other reasonable costs and expenses incurred in connection with the denied child support or denied visitation as authorized by the court.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY Section 8, Chapter 400, O.S.L. 2002 (43 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 112.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 112.3 A. As used in this section:

1. "Change of residence address" means a change in the primary residence of an adult;

2. "Child" means a child under the age of eighteen (18) who has not been judicially emancipated;

3. "Person entitled to custody of or visitation with a child" means a person so entitled by virtue of a court order or by an express agreement that is subject to court enforcement;

4. "Principal residence of a child" means:

a. the location designated by a court to be the primary residence of the child,

b. in the absence of a court order, the location at which the parties have expressly agreed that the child will primarily reside, or

c. in the absence of a court order or an express agreement, the location, if any, at which the child, preceding the time involved, lived with the ~~child's~~ parents <u>of the child</u>, a parent, or a person acting as parent for at least six (6) consecutive months and, in the case of a child less than six (6) months old, the location at which the child lived from birth with any of the persons mentioned. Periods of temporary absence of any of the named persons are counted as part of the six-month or other period; and

5. "Relocation" means a change in the principal residence of a child over seventy-five (75) miles from the ~~child's~~ principal

residence of the child for a period of sixty (60) days or more, but does not include a temporary absence from the principal residence.

B. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this section, a person who has the right to establish the principal residence of the child shall notify every other person entitled to visitation with the child of a proposed relocation of the ~~child's~~ principal residence of the child as required by this section.

2. Except as otherwise provided by this section, an adult entitled to visitation with a child shall notify every other person entitled to custody of or visitation with the child of an intended change in the primary residence address of the adult as required by this section.

C. 1. Except as provided by this section, notice of a proposed relocation of the principal residence of a child or notice of an intended change of the primary residence address of an adult must be given:

a. by mail to the last-known address of the person to be notified, and

b. no later than:

(1) the sixtieth day before the date of the intended move or proposed relocation, or

(2) the tenth day after the date that the person knows the information required to be furnished pursuant to this subsection, if the person did not know and could not reasonably have known the information in sufficient time to comply with the sixty-day notice, and it is not reasonably possible to extend the time for relocation of the child.

2. Except as provided by this section, the following information, if available, must be included with the notice of

intended relocation of the child or change of primary residence of an adult:

a. the intended new residence, including the specific address, if known,

b. the mailing address, if not the same,

c. the home telephone number, if known,

d. the date of the intended move or proposed relocation,

e. a brief statement of the specific reasons for the proposed relocation of a child, if applicable,

f. a proposal for a revised schedule of visitation with the child, if any, and

g. a warning to the nonrelocating parent that an objection to the relocation must be made within thirty (30) days or the relocation will be permitted.

3. A person required to give notice of a proposed relocation or change of residence address under this subsection has a continuing duty to provide a change in or addition to the information required by this subsection as that information becomes known.

D. After the effective date of this act, an order issued by a court directed to a person entitled to custody of or visitation with a child shall include the following or substantially similar terms:

"You, as a party in this action, are ordered to notify every other party to this action of a proposed relocation of the child, change of your primary residence address, and the following information:

1. The intended new residence, including the specific address, if known;

2. The mailing address, if not the same;

3. The home telephone number, if known;

4. The date of the intended move or proposed relocation;

5. A brief statement of the specific reasons for the proposed relocation of a child, if applicable; and

6. A proposal for a revised schedule of visitation with the child, if any.

You are further ordered to give notice of the proposed relocation or change of residence address on or before the sixtieth day before a proposed change. If you do not know and could not have reasonably known of the change in sufficient time to provide a sixty-day notice, you are ordered to give notice of the change on or before the tenth day after the date that you know of the change.

Your obligation to furnish this information to every other party continues as long as you, or any other person, by virtue of this order, are entitled to custody of or visitation with a child covered by this order.

Your failure to obey the order of this court to provide every other party with notice of information regarding the proposed relocation or change of residence address may result in further litigation to enforce the order, including contempt of court.

In addition, your failure to notify of a relocation of the child may be taken into account in a modification of custody of, visitation with, possession of or access to the child. Reasonable costs and attorney fees also may be assessed against you if you fail to give the required notice.

If you, as the nonrelocating parent, do not file a proceeding seeking a temporary or permanent order to prevent the relocation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of the intent of the other party to relocate the residence of the child, relocation is authorized."

E. 1. On a finding by the court that the health, safety, or liberty of a person or a child would be unreasonably put at risk by the disclosure of the required identifying information in conjunction with a proposed relocation of the child or change of residence of an adult, the court may order that:

a. the specific residence address and telephone number of the child or of the adult and other identifying information shall not be disclosed in the pleadings, other documents filed in the proceeding, or the final order, except for an in camera disclosure,

b. the notice requirements provided by this article be waived to the extent necessary to protect confidentiality and the health, safety or liberty of a person or child, and

c. any other remedial action that the court considers necessary to facilitate the legitimate needs of the parties and the best interest of the child.

2. If appropriate, the court may conduct an ex parte hearing pursuant to this subsection.

3. A finding by the court of domestic violence creates a presumption that the custodial parent and child will be put at risk by the disclosure of information required by this section and is sufficient to waive all requirements of this section. It is the policy of this state that a child should reside with a nonviolent parent and that that parent should be free to make a choice about a safe, secure place of residence, even if it means relocation to another city or state without disclosure to the violent parent.

F. 1. The court may consider a failure to provide notice of a proposed relocation of a child as provided by this section as:

a. a factor in making its determination regarding the relocation of a child,

b. a factor in determining whether custody or visitation should be modified,

c. a basis for ordering the return of the child if the relocation has taken place without notice, and

d. sufficient cause to order the person seeking to relocate the child to pay reasonable expenses and

attorney fees incurred by the person objecting to the relocation.

2. In addition to the sanctions provided by this subsection, the court may make a finding of contempt if a party violates the notice requirement required by this section and may impose the sanctions authorized for contempt of a court order.

G. 1. The person entitled to custody of a child may relocate the principal residence of a child after providing notice as provided by this section unless a parent entitled to notice files a proceeding seeking a temporary or permanent order to prevent the relocation within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice.

2. A parent entitled by court order or written agreement to visitation with a child may file a proceeding objecting to a proposed relocation of the principal residence of a child and seek a temporary or permanent order to prevent the relocation.

3. If relocation of the child is proposed, a nonparent entitled by court order or written agreement to visitation with a child may file a proceeding to obtain a revised schedule of visitation, but may not object to the proposed relocation or seek a temporary or permanent order to prevent the relocation.

4. A proceeding filed pursuant to this subsection must be filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of a proposed relocation.

H. 1. The court may grant a temporary order restraining the relocation of a child, or ordering return of the child if a relocation has previously taken place, if the court finds:

a. the required notice of a proposed relocation of a child as provided by this section was not provided in a timely manner and the parties have not presented an agreed-upon revised schedule for visitation with the child for ~~the court's~~ approval by the court,

b. the child already has been relocated without notice, agreement of the parties, or court approval, or

c. from an examination of the evidence presented at the temporary hearing there is a likelihood that on final hearing the court will not approve the relocation of the primary residence of the child.

2. The court may grant a temporary order permitting the relocation of the child pending final hearing if the court:

a. finds that the required notice of a proposed relocation of a child as provided by this section was provided in a timely manner and issues an order for a revised schedule for temporary visitation with the child, and

b. finds from an examination of the evidence presented at the temporary hearing there is a likelihood that on final hearing the court will approve the relocation of the primary residence of the child.

I. A proposed relocation of a child may be a factor in considering a change of custody.

J. 1. In reaching its decision regarding a proposed relocation, the court shall consider the following factors:

a. the nature, quality, extent of involvement, and duration of the ~~child's~~ relationship of the child with the person proposing to relocate and with the nonrelocating person, siblings, and other significant persons in the ~~child's~~ life of the child,

b. the age, developmental stage, needs of the child, and the likely impact the relocation will have on the ~~child's~~ physical, educational, and emotional development of the child, taking into consideration any special needs of the child,

c. the feasibility of preserving the relationship between the nonrelocating person and the child through suitable visitation arrangements, considering the logistics and financial circumstances of the parties,

d. the ~~child's~~ preference of the child, taking into consideration the age and maturity of the child,

e. whether there is an established pattern of conduct of the person seeking the relocation, either to promote or thwart the relationship of the child and the nonrelocating person,

f. whether the relocation of the child will enhance the general quality of life for both the custodial party seeking the relocation and the child, including but not limited to financial or emotional benefit or educational opportunity,

g. the reasons of each person for seeking or opposing the relocation, and

h. any other factor affecting the best interest of the child.

2. The court may not:

a. give undue weight to the temporary relocation as a factor in reaching its final decision, if the court has issued a temporary order authorizing a party seeking to relocate a child to move before final judgment is issued, or

b. consider whether the person seeking relocation of the child has declared that he or she will not relocate if relocation of the child is denied.

K. The relocating person has the burden of proof that the proposed relocation is made in good faith. If that burden of proof is met, the burden shifts to the nonrelocating person to show that the proposed relocation is not in the best interest of the child.

L. 1. After notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court may impose a sanction on a person proposing a relocation of the child or objecting to a proposed relocation of a child if it determines that the proposal was made or the objection was filed:

a. to harass a person or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation,

b. without being warranted by existing law or was based on frivolous argument, or

c. based on allegations and other factual contentions which had no evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, could not have been reasonably believed to be likely to have evidentiary support after further investigation.

2. A sanction imposed under this subsection shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter repetition of such conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The sanction may include directives of a nonmonetary nature, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the other party of some or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses incurred as a direct result of the violation.

M. If the issue of relocation is presented at the initial hearing to determine custody of and visitation with a child, the court shall apply the factors set forth in this section in making its initial determination.

N. 1. The provisions of this section apply to an order regarding custody of or visitation with a child issued:

a. after the effective date of this act, and

b. before the effective date of this act, if the existing custody order or enforceable agreement does not expressly govern the relocation of the child or there

is a change in the primary residence address of an adult affected by the order.

2. To the extent that a provision of this section conflicts with an existing custody order or enforceable agreement, this section does not apply to the terms of that order or agreement that govern relocation of the child or a change in the primary residence address of an adult.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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