

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

By: Dunlap

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2011, Sections 101, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 428, O.S.L. 2014, 107.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 385, O.S.L. 2015, 110 and 121, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2012 (43 O.S. Supp. 2016, Sections 101, 107.2 and 121), which relate to dissolution of marriage; modifying the use of incompatibility as a ground for divorce; requiring counseling and completion of a waiting period; providing exception for good cause shown; prescribing shorter waiting period in specified cases; permitting written objection; adding habitual substance abuse as a ground; specifying date of applicability; raising maximum cost of educational program; requiring parties to pay their own expenses in certain cases; providing exception; requiring unequal division of marital property if certain conditions are met; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2011, Section 101, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 428, O.S.L. 2014 (43 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 101), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 101. The district court may grant a divorce for any of
2 the following causes:

3 ~~First.~~ 1. Abandonment for one (1) year-;

4 ~~Second.~~ 2. Adultery-;

5 ~~Third.~~ 3. Impotency-;

6 ~~Fourth.~~ 4. When the wife at the time of her marriage was
7 pregnant by another than her husband-;

8 ~~Fifth.~~ 5. Extreme cruelty-;

9 ~~Sixth.~~ 6. Fraudulent contract-;

10 ~~Seventh.~~ 7. Incompatibility. Provided, however, where the
11 interest of a child under eighteen (18) years of age is involved,
12 where the parties have been married ten (10) years or longer or
13 where one party objects in writing, the adult parties shall complete
14 a waiting period of one hundred eighty (180) days, during which time
15 the adult parties shall attend an educational program concerning the
16 impact of divorce on children as provided in subsection B of Section
17 107.2 of this title-, as well as meet with a licensed family
18 counselor, either separately or together, for a minimum of twelve
19 (12) hours and provide documentation of such meetings to the court.
20 The court may waive meetings with a licensed family counselor as
21 well as the waiting period of one hundred eighty (180) days for good
22 cause shown which shall include, but not be limited to, where
23 domestic violence, stalking or harassment as defined by paragraph 2
24 of subsection I of Section 109 of this title occurred during the

1 marriage. Where the interest of a child under eighteen (18) years
2 of age is not involved, where the parties have been married less
3 than ten (10) years and where neither party objects in writing, both
4 parties shall complete a waiting period of thirty (30) days at the
5 conclusion of which both parties shall affirm in writing their
6 continued absence of any objection to divorce on the ground of
7 incompatibility. Should either party object in writing during the
8 thirty-day waiting period, the parties shall complete a waiting
9 period of one hundred eighty (180) days beginning on the day either
10 party objects in writing, during which time both parties shall
11 attend an educational program concerning the impact of divorce as
12 provided in subsection B of Section 107.2 of this title, as well as
13 meet with a licensed family counselor, either separately or
14 together, for a minimum of twelve (12) hours and provide
15 documentation of such meetings to the court;

16 ~~Eighth.~~ 8. Habitual drunkenness- or habitual substance abuse;

17 ~~Ninth.~~ 9. Gross neglect of duty-;

18 ~~Tenth.~~ 10. Imprisonment of the other party in a state or
19 federal penal institution under sentence thereto for the commission
20 of a felony at the time the petition is filed-;

21 ~~Eleventh.~~ 11. The procurement of a final divorce decree without
22 this state by a husband or wife which does not in this state release
23 the other party from the obligations of the marriage-; and
24

1 ~~Twelfth.~~ 12. Insanity for a period of five (5) years, the
2 insane person having been an inmate of a state institution for the
3 insane in the State of Oklahoma, or inmate of a state institution
4 for the insane in some other state for such period, or of a private
5 sanitarium, and affected with a type of insanity with a poor
6 prognosis for recovery; provided, that no divorce shall be granted
7 because of insanity until after a thorough examination of such
8 insane person by three physicians, one of whom shall be a
9 superintendent of the hospital or sanitarium for the insane in which
10 the insane defendant is confined, and the other two to be appointed
11 by the court before whom the action is pending, and any two of such
12 physicians shall agree that such insane person, at the time the
13 petition in the divorce action is filed, has a poor prognosis for
14 recovery; provided, further, however, that no divorce shall be
15 granted on this ground to any person whose husband or wife is an
16 inmate of a state institution in any other than the State of
17 Oklahoma, unless the person applying for such divorce shall have
18 been a resident of the State of Oklahoma for at least five (5) years
19 prior to the commencement of an action; and provided further, that a
20 decree granted on this ground shall not relieve the successful party
21 from contributing to the support and maintenance of the defendant.
22 The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the insane
23 defendant, which appointment shall be made at least ten (10) days
24 before any decree is entered.

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2011, Section 107.2, as
2 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 385, O.S.L. 2015 (43 O.S. Supp.
3 2016, Section 107.2), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 107.2 A. Except as provided in subsection B of this
5 section, in all actions for divorce, separate maintenance,
6 guardianship, paternity, custody or visitation, including
7 modifications or enforcements of a prior court order, where the
8 interest of a child under eighteen (18) years of age is involved,
9 the court may require all adult parties to attend an educational
10 program concerning, as appropriate, the impact of separate parenting
11 and coparenting on children, the implications for visitation and
12 conflict management, development of children, separate financial
13 responsibility for children and such other instruction as deemed
14 necessary by the court. The program shall be educational in nature
15 and not designed for individual therapy.

16 B. In actions for divorce based upon incompatibility filed on
17 or after November 1, ~~2014~~ 2017, ~~where the interest of a child under~~
18 ~~eighteen (18) years of age is involved~~ as provided in paragraph 7 of
19 Section 101 of this title, the adult parties shall attend, either
20 separately or together, an educational program concerning the impact
21 of divorce ~~on children~~. The program shall include the following
22 components:

23 1. Short-term and longitudinal effects of divorce on child
24 well-being;

2. Reconciliation as an optional outcome;

3. Effects of family violence;

4. Potential child behaviors and emotional states during and after divorce including information on how to respond to the child's needs;

5. Communication strategies to reduce conflict and facilitate cooperative coparenting; and

6. Area resources, including but not limited to nonprofit organizations or religious entities available to address issues of substance abuse or other addictions, family violence, behavioral health, individual and couples counseling, and financial planning.

Program attendees shall be required to pay a fee of not less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and not more than ~~Sixty Dollars (\$60.00)~~ Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to the program provider to offset the costs of the program. The fee may be waived by the court if an attendee uses a qualified program that is provided free of charge. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a third party from paying the fee to the program provider for an attendee. A certificate of completion shall be issued upon satisfying the attendance and fee requirements of the program, and the certificate of completion shall be filed with the court. The program provider shall carry general liability insurance and maintain an accurate accounting of all business transactions and funds received in relation to the program. The program shall be completed prior to the temporary order or

1 within forty-five (45) days of receiving a temporary order.
2 However, and in all events, a final disposition of child custody
3 shall not be granted until the parties complete the program required
4 by this subsection. The court may waive attendance of the program
5 for good cause shown which shall include, but not be limited to,
6 where domestic violence, stalking or harassment as defined by
7 paragraph 2 of subsection I of Section 109 of this title occurred
8 during the marriage.

9 C. Each judicial district may adopt its own local rules
10 governing the programs.

11 D. The Administrative Office of the Courts may enter into a
12 memorandum of understanding with a state entity or other
13 organization in order to compile data including but not limited to
14 the number of actions for divorce that were dismissed after
15 participating in the program, the number of programs that were
16 completed and the number of program participants for each fiscal
17 year. The report shall include data collected from each judicial
18 district. The report shall be published on the Administrative
19 Office of the Courts website and distributed to the Governor,
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the
21 House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and
22 Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2011, Section 110, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 110. A. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this
2 subsection, upon the filing of a petition for dissolution of
3 marriage, annulment of a marriage or legal separation by the
4 petitioner and upon personal service of the petition and summons on
5 the respondent, or upon waiver and acceptance of service by the
6 respondent, an automatic temporary injunction shall be in effect
7 against both parties pursuant to the provisions of this section:

8 a. restraining the parties from transferring,
9 encumbering, concealing, or in any way disposing of,
10 without the written consent of the other party or an
11 order of the court, any marital property, except in
12 the usual course of business, for the purpose of
13 retaining an attorney for the case or for the
14 necessities of life and requiring each party to notify
15 the other party of any proposed extraordinary
16 expenditures and to account to the court for all
17 extraordinary expenditures made after the injunction
18 is in effect,

19 b. restraining the parties from:

20 (1) intentionally or knowingly damaging or destroying
21 the tangible property of the parties, or of
22 either of them, specifically including, but not
23 limited to, any electronically stored materials,
24 electronic communications, social network data,

1 financial records, and any document that
2 represents or embodies anything of value,

3 (2) making any withdrawal for any purpose from any
4 retirement, profit-sharing, pension, death, or
5 other employee benefit plan or employee savings
6 plan or from any individual retirement account or
7 Keogh account,

8 (3) withdrawing or borrowing in any manner all or any
9 part of the cash surrender value of any life
10 insurance policies on either party or their
11 children,

12 (4) changing or in any manner altering the
13 beneficiary designation on any life insurance
14 policies on the life of either party or any of
15 their children,

16 (5) canceling, altering, or in any manner affecting
17 any casualty, automobile, or health insurance
18 policies insuring the parties' property or
19 persons,

20 (6) opening or diverting mail addressed to the other
21 party, and

22 (7) signing or endorsing the other party's name on
23 any negotiable instrument, check, or draft, such
24 as tax refunds, insurance payments, and

dividends, or attempting to negotiate any negotiable instruments payable to either party without the personal signature of the other party,

- c. requiring the parties to maintain all presently existing health, property, life and other insurance which the individual is presently carrying on any member of this family unit, and to cooperate as necessary in the filing and processing of claims. Any employer-provided health insurance currently in existence shall remain in full force and effect for all family members,
- d. enjoining both parties from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party or of the children to the marriage,
- e. restraining both parties from disrupting or withdrawing their children from an educational facility and programs where the children historically have been enrolled, or day care,
- f. restraining both parties from hiding or secreting their children from the other party,
- g. restraining both parties from removing the minor children of the parties, if any, beyond the jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma, acting directly

1 or in concert with others, except for vacations of two
2 (2) weeks or less duration, without the prior written
3 consent of the other party, which shall not be
4 unreasonably withheld, and

5 h. requiring, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties
6 in writing, the delivery by each party to the other
7 within thirty (30) days from the earlier of either the
8 date of service of the summons or the filing of an
9 initial pleading by the respondent, the following
10 documents:

11 (1) the federal and state income tax returns of each
12 party for the past two (2) years and any
13 nonpublic, limited partnership and privately held
14 corporate returns for any entity in which either
15 party has an interest, together with all
16 supporting documentation for the tax returns,
17 including but not limited to W-2 forms, 1099
18 forms, K-1 forms, Schedule C and Schedule E. If
19 a return is not completed at the time of
20 disclosure, the parties shall provide the
21 documents necessary to prepare the tax return of
22 the party, to include W-2 forms, 1099 forms, K-1
23 forms, copies of extension requests and estimated
24 tax payments,

- 1 (2) two (2) months of the most recent pay stubs from
2 each employer for whom the party worked,
3 (3) statements for the past six (6) months for all
4 bank accounts held in the name of either party
5 individually or jointly, or in the name of
6 another person for the benefit of either party,
7 or held by either party for the benefit of the
8 minor child or children of the parties,
9 (4) documentation regarding the cost and nature of
10 available health insurance coverage for the
11 benefit of either party or the minor child or
12 children of the parties,
13 (5) documentation regarding the cost and nature of
14 employment or educationally related child care
15 expenses incurred for the benefit of the minor
16 child or children of the parties, and
17 (6) documentation regarding all debts in the name of
18 either party individually or jointly, showing the
19 most recent balance due and payment terms.

20 2. If either party is not in possession of a document required
21 pursuant to subparagraph h of paragraph 1 of this subsection or has
22 not been able to obtain the document in a timely fashion, the party
23 shall state in verified writing, under the penalty of perjury, the
24 specific document which is not available, the reasons the document

1 is not available, and what efforts have been made to obtain the
2 document. As more information becomes available, there is a
3 continuing duty to supplement the disclosures.

4 3. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a party from
5 conducting further discovery pursuant to the Oklahoma Discovery
6 Code.

7 4. a. The provisions of the automatic temporary injunction
8 shall be printed as an attachment to the summons and
9 the petition and entitled "Automatic Temporary
10 Injunction Notice".

11 b. The automatic temporary injunction notice shall
12 contain a provision which will allow the parties to
13 waive the automatic temporary injunction. In
14 addition, the provision must state that unless both
15 parties have agreed and have signed their names in the
16 space provided, that the automatic temporary
17 injunction will be effective. Along with the waiver
18 provision, the notice shall contain a check box and
19 space available for the signatures of the parties.

20 5. The automatic temporary injunction shall become an order of
21 the court upon fulfillment of the requirements of paragraph 1 of
22 this subsection unless and until:

23 a. the automatic temporary injunction is waived by the
24 parties. Both parties must indicate on the automatic

1 temporary injunction notice in the space provided that
2 the parties have both agreed to waive the automatic
3 temporary injunction. Each party must sign his or her
4 own name on the notice in the space provided, or

5 b. a party, no later than three (3) days after service on
6 the party, files an objection to the injunction and
7 requests a hearing. Provided, the automatic temporary
8 injunction shall remain in effect until the hearing
9 and a judge orders the injunction removed.

10 6. The automatic temporary injunction shall be dissolved upon
11 the granting of the dissolution of marriage, final order of legal
12 separation or other final order.

13 7. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude either party from
14 applying to the court for further temporary orders, pursuant to this
15 section, an expanded automatic temporary injunction, or modification
16 or revocation thereto.

17 8. a. With regard to an automatic temporary injunction, when
18 a petition for dissolution of marriage, annulment of a
19 marriage, or a legal separation is filed and served, a
20 peace officer shall use every reasonable means to
21 enforce the injunction which enjoins both parties from
22 molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party
23 or the children of the marriage against a petitioner
24 or respondent, whenever:

1 (1) there is exhibited by a respondent or by the
2 petitioner to the peace officer a copy of the
3 petition or summons, with an attached Temporary
4 Injunction Notice, duly filed and issued pursuant
5 to this section, together with a certified copy
6 of the affidavit of service of process or a
7 certified copy of the waiver and acceptance of
8 service, and

9 (2) the peace officer has cause to believe that a
10 violation of the automatic temporary injunction
11 has occurred.

12 b. A peace officer shall not be held civilly or
13 criminally liable for his or her action pursuant to
14 this paragraph if his or her action is in good faith
15 and without malice.

16 B. After a petition has been filed in an action for dissolution
17 of marriage or legal separation either party may request the court
18 to issue:

19 1. A temporary order:

- 20 a. regarding child custody, support or visitation,
- 21 b. regarding spousal maintenance,
- 22 c. regarding payment of debt,
- 23 d. regarding possession of property,
- 24 e. regarding attorney fees, and

1 f. providing other injunctive relief proper in the
2 circumstances.

3 All applications for temporary orders shall set forth the
4 factual basis for the application and shall be verified by the party
5 seeking relief. The application and a notice of hearing shall be
6 served on the other party in any manner provided for in the Rules of
7 Civil Procedure.

8 The court shall not issue a temporary order until at least five
9 (5) days' notice of hearing is given to the other party.

10 After notice and hearing, a court may issue a temporary order
11 granting the relief as provided by this paragraph; and/or

12 2. A temporary restraining order. If the court finds on the
13 basis of a verified application and testimony of witnesses that
14 irreparable harm will result to the moving party, or a child of a
15 party if no order is issued before the adverse party or attorney for
16 the adverse party can be heard in opposition, the court may issue a
17 temporary restraining order which shall become immediately effective
18 and enforceable without requiring notice and opportunity to be heard
19 to the other party. Provided, for the purposes of this section, no
20 minor child or children temporarily residing in a licensed,
21 certified domestic violence shelter in the state shall be removed by
22 an ex parte order. If a temporary restraining order is issued
23 pursuant to this paragraph, the motion for a temporary order shall
24 be set within ten (10) days.

1 C. Any temporary orders and the automatic temporary injunction,
2 or specific terms thereof, may be vacated or modified prior to or in
3 conjunction with a final decree on a showing by either party of
4 facts necessary for vacation or modification. Temporary orders and
5 the automatic temporary injunction terminate when the final judgment
6 on all issues, except attorney fees and costs, is rendered or when
7 the action is dismissed. The court may reserve jurisdiction to rule
8 on an application for a contempt citation for a violation of a
9 temporary order or the automatic temporary injunction which is filed
10 any time prior to the time the temporary order or injunction
11 terminates.

12 D. Upon granting a decree of dissolution of marriage, annulment
13 of a marriage, or legal separation, the court ~~may~~ shall require
14 ~~either party~~ the parties to pay ~~such reasonable~~ their own expenses
15 ~~of the other as may be just and proper under the circumstances,~~
16 including attorney fees, except as provided in subsection E of this
17 section and in Section 112.6 of this title.

18 E. Upon granting a decree of dissolution of marriage, annulment
19 of a marriage, or legal separation, where the court finds by a
20 preponderance of the evidence that one spouse caused the
21 dissolution, annulment or separation by committing at least one of
22 the grounds for divorce, other than incompatibility, listed in
23 Section 101 of this title, the court shall order that party to pay
24 the other party's expenses, including attorney fees.

1 F. The court may in its discretion make additional orders
2 relative to the expenses of any such subsequent actions, including
3 but not limited to writs of habeas corpus, brought by the parties or
4 their attorneys, for the enforcement or modification of any
5 interlocutory or final orders in the dissolution of marriage action
6 made for the benefit of either party or their respective attorneys.

7 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2011, Section 121, as last
8 amended by Section 1, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2012 (43 O.S. Supp. 2016,
9 Section 121), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 121. A. When a dissolution of marriage is granted, the
11 decree shall restore:

12 1. To the wife her maiden or former name, if her name was
13 changed as a result of the marriage and if she so desires;

14 2. To the husband his former name, if his name was changed as a
15 result of the marriage and if he so desires.

16 B. The court shall enter its decree confirming in each spouse
17 the property owned by him or her before marriage and the undisposed-
18 of property acquired after marriage by him or her in his or her own
19 right. Either spouse may be allowed such alimony out of real and
20 personal property of the other as the court shall think reasonable,
21 having due regard to the value of such property at the time of the
22 dissolution of marriage. Alimony may be allowed from real or
23 personal property, or both, or in the form of money judgment,
24 payable either in gross or in installments, as the court may deem

1 just and equitable. As to such property, whether real or personal,
2 which has been acquired by the parties jointly during their
3 marriage, whether the title thereto be in either or both of said
4 parties, the court shall, subject to a valid antenuptial contract in
5 writing, make such division between the parties as may appear just
6 and reasonable, by a division of the property in kind, or by setting
7 the same apart to one of the parties, and requiring the other
8 thereof to be paid such sum as may be just and proper to effect a
9 fair and just division thereof. However, where the court finds by a
10 preponderance of the evidence that one spouse caused the dissolution
11 of marriage by committing at least one of the grounds for divorce,
12 other than incompatibility, listed in Section 101 of this title, the
13 court shall award only one-quarter (1/4) of the marital property to
14 that spouse and the other spouse shall retain the remaining three-
15 quarters (3/4) of the marital property. The court may set apart a
16 portion of the separate estate of a spouse to the other spouse for
17 the support of the children of the marriage where custody resides
18 with that spouse.

19 C. A servicemember's portion of Special Monthly Compensation
20 (SMC) awarded by or from the United States Department of Veterans
21 Affairs for service-connected loss or loss of use of specific organs
22 or extremities shall be separate property, not divisible as a
23 marital asset nor as community property. For purposes of
24 identifying SMC, it is the sole responsibility of the servicemember

1 to prove with competent evidence what amount of his or her
2 disability compensation is SMC.

3 D. A servicemember's portion of Combat-Related Special
4 Compensation (CRSC) shall be separate property, not divisible as a
5 marital asset nor as community property, if a specific dollar amount
6 of CRSC can be proved by the servicemember as compensation for
7 combat-related loss of limb or loss of bodily function and the CRSC
8 award was applied for and established prior to the date of the
9 filing of the dissolution of marriage action.

10 E. Pursuant to the federal Uniformed Services Former Spouses'
11 Protection Act, 10 U.S.C., Section 1408, a court may treat
12 disposable retired or retainer pay payable to a military member
13 either as property solely of the member or as property of the member
14 and the spouse of the member. If a state court determines that the
15 disposable retired or retainer pay of a military member is the sole
16 and separate property of the military member, the court shall submit
17 clear and concise written findings of such determination to be
18 included in the decree or final order. If a state court determines
19 that the disposable retired or retainer pay of a military member is
20 marital property, the court shall submit clear and concise written
21 findings of such determination to be included in the decree or final
22 order and shall award an amount consistent with the rank, pay grade,
23 and time of service of the member at the date of the filing of the
24

petition, unless the court finds a more equitable date due to the economic separation of the parties.

F. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, any division of an active duty military member's retirement or retainer pay shall use the following language:

"The former spouse is awarded a percentage of the member's disposable military retired pay, to be computed by multiplying fifty percent (50%) times a fraction, the numerator of which is ____x____ months of marriage during the member's creditable military service, divided by the member's total number of months of creditable military service."

G. In the case of a member's retiring from reserve duty, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, any division of a reservist's retirement or retainer pay shall use the following language:

"The former spouse is awarded a percentage of the member's disposable military retired pay, to be computed by multiplying fifty percent (50%) times a fraction, the numerator of which is __X__ reserve retirement points earned during the period of the marriage, divided by the member's total number of reserve retirement points earned."

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

56-1-7050 EK 02/21/17