

Chapter 687

(House Bill 625)

AN ACT concerning

Domestic Violence – Domestic Violence Central Repository

FOR the purpose of requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to maintain a Domestic Violence Central Repository; requiring that the Central Repository store certain domestic violence orders issued in the State; establishing the purposes of the Central Repository; defining a certain term; and generally relating to domestic violence and the Domestic Violence Central Repository.

BY adding to

Article – Family Law

Section 4–512

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Family Law

4–512.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CENTRAL REPOSITORY” MEANS THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTRAL REPOSITORY.

(B) THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS SHALL MAINTAIN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTRAL REPOSITORY.

(C) (1) THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY SHALL STORE THE FOLLOWING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS ISSUED IN THE STATE:

(I) INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDERS;

(II) TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS;

(III) FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS;

(IV) PEACE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 15 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE; AND

(V) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, PEACE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 8A OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.

(2) A PEACE ORDER ISSUED UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 8A OF THE COURTS ARTICLE SHALL BE STORED ONLY DURING THE TERM OF THE PEACE ORDER.

(D) THE PURPOSES OF THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY ARE TO:

(1) PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS BY JUDGES, COURT PERSONNEL, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES;

(2) IMPROVE THE COURTS' ABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY, PROMPTLY, AND IN A COORDINATED MANNER TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES;

(3) ELIMINATE CONFLICTING OR SIMULTANEOUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS BY IMPROVING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE CIRCUIT COURTS;

(4) ENHANCE THE ENFORCEABILITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; AND

(5) FACILITATE SERVICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.