

Chapter 354

(Senate Bill 477)

AN ACT concerning

Domestic Violence – Persons Eligible for Relief

FOR the purpose of altering, for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to domestic violence, the definition of “person eligible for relief” to include an individual who has had a sexual relationship with a certain respondent within a certain period of time before the filing of a certain petition; establishing a certain exception to a provision that authorizes the court to include in a final protective order a requirement that certain individuals participate in certain counseling or a domestic violence program; and generally relating to domestic violence.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Family Law
 Section 4–501(m) *and* 4–506(d)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

4–501.

(m) “Person eligible for relief” includes:

- (1) the current or former spouse of the respondent;
- (2) a cohabitant of the respondent;
- (3) a person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- (4) a parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;
- (5) a vulnerable adult; [or]
- (6) an individual who has a child in common with the respondent; **OR**

(7) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS HAD A ~~CONSENSUAL OR NONCONSENSUAL~~ SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RESPONDENT WITHIN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE FILING OF THE PETITION.

4-506.

(d) The final protective order may include any or all of the following relief:

(1) order the respondent to refrain from abusing or threatening to abuse any person eligible for relief;

(2) order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;

(3) order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence of any person eligible for relief;

(4) where the person eligible for relief and the respondent are residing together at the time of the abuse, order the respondent to vacate the home immediately and award temporary use and possession of the home to the person eligible for relief or, in the case of alleged abuse of a child or alleged abuse of a vulnerable adult, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living in the home, provided that the court may not grant an order to vacate and award temporary use and possession of the home to a nonspouse person eligible for relief unless the name of the person eligible for relief appears on the lease or deed to the home or the person eligible for relief has shared the home with the respondent for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;

(5) order the respondent to remain away from the place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or home of other family members;

(6) order the respondent to remain away from a child care provider of a person eligible for relief while a child of the person is in the care of the child care provider;

(7) award temporary custody of a minor child of the respondent and a person eligible for relief;

(8) establish temporary visitation with a minor child of the respondent and a person eligible for relief on a basis which gives primary consideration to the welfare of the minor child and the safety of any other person eligible for relief. If the court finds that the safety of a person eligible for relief will be jeopardized by unsupervised or unrestricted visitation, the court shall condition or restrict visitation as to time, place, duration, or supervision, or deny visitation entirely, as needed to guard the safety of any person eligible for relief;

(9) award emergency family maintenance as necessary to support any person eligible for relief to whom the respondent has a duty of support under this article,

including an immediate and continuing withholding order on all earnings of the respondent in the amount of the ordered emergency family maintenance in accordance with the procedures specified in Title 10, Subtitle 1, Part III of this article;

(10) award temporary use and possession of a vehicle jointly owned by the respondent and a person eligible for relief to the person eligible for relief if necessary for the employment of the person eligible for relief or for the care of a minor child of the respondent or a person eligible for relief;

(11) EXCEPT WHEN A PROTECTIVE ORDER IS ISSUED FOR A PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF DESCRIBED IN § 4-501(M)(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE, direct the respondent or any or all of the persons eligible for relief to participate in professionally supervised counseling or a domestic violence program;

(12) order the respondent to pay filing fees and costs of a proceeding under this subtitle; or

(13) award temporary possession of any pet of the person eligible for relief or the respondent.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.