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**By: Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Judiciary Committee (Family Violence Council),  
and Delegates Dewberry, Hurson, Arnick, Busch, Curran, Harrison, Hixson, Kopp,  
Menes, Owings, and Rawlings**

Requested: October 28, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Protective Orders**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a respondent be served a copy of a protective order in  
4 open court or by first class mail; repealing a provision of law that requires a copy of  
5 a protective order to be served on a respondent by certain law enforcement  
6 personnel; providing that, under certain circumstances, service constitutes actual  
7 notice to the respondent of the contents of the protective order; establishing that  
8 service is complete upon mailing; requiring the Sheriff, under certain circumstances,  
9 to post a copy of the protective order at a certain location for a certain period;  
10 modifying a certain provision of law to extend the duration of protective orders;  
11 defining a certain term; and generally relating to protective orders.

12 BY renumbering

13 Article - Family Law  
14 Section 4-501(j) and (k), respectively  
15 to be Section 4-501(k) and (l), respectively  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article - Family Law  
20 Section 4-501(j)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article - Family Law  
25 Section 4-506(f) and (g)  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 4-501(j) and (k), respectively, of the Family Law Article  
3 of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 4-501(k) and (l),  
4 respectively.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
6 read as follows:

7 **Article - Family Law**

8 4-501.

9 (J) "RESIDENCE" INCLUDES THE LAND SURROUNDING A HOUSE OR  
10 DWELLING.

11 4-506.

12 (f) (1) A copy of the protective order shall be served on the petitioner, THE  
13 RESPONDENT, any affected person eligible for relief, the appropriate law enforcement  
14 agency, and any other person the court determines is appropriate, in open court or by first  
15 class mail.

16 [(2) (i) A copy of the protective order shall be served on the respondent in  
17 open court or by a law enforcement officer, constable, or sheriff.

18 (ii) A copy of the protective order shall also be sent to the last known  
19 address of the respondent by first class mail.

20 (3) If the respondent is served by a law enforcement officer, constable, or  
21 sheriff, a return of service shall be filed with the court.]

22 (2) A COPY OF THE PROTECTIVE ORDER SERVED ON THE RESPONDENT  
23 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION CONSTITUTES ACTUAL  
24 NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PROTECTIVE ORDER.  
25 SERVICE IS COMPLETE UPON MAILING.

26 (3) IF THE RESPONDENT IS NOT SERVED IN OPEN COURT, IN ADDITION  
27 TO MAILING A COPY OF THE ORDER TO THE RESPONDENT, THE SHERIFF SHALL  
28 POST A COPY OF THE PROTECTIVE ORDER AT THE COURTHOUSE DOOR OR ON A  
29 BULLETIN BOARD WITHIN THE DOOR'S IMMEDIATE VICINITY FOR 30 DAYS FROM  
30 THE DATE OF THE ORDER.

31 (g) All relief granted in a protective order shall be effective for the period stated  
32 in the order, not to exceed [200 days] 18 MONTHS.

33 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 1997.