

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 677

(Senator Gladden)

Judicial Proceedings

Criminal Procedure - Warrantless Arrest - Violation of Protective Order

This bill places language authorizing a police officer to make a warrantless arrest of a person in violation of an interim, temporary, or final protective order in the Criminal Procedure Article.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Law enforcement agencies are already required to make warrantless arrests under these circumstances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Current law already *requires* an officer to arrest with or without a warrant and take into custody any person the officer has probable cause to believe is in violation of an interim, temporary, or final protective order in effect at the time of the violation. (*See* Family Law Article, § 4-509.)

A police officer *may* arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed 1 of 10 crimes specified in statute and that unless the person is arrested immediately, the person may not be apprehended; may cause physical harm or property damage; or may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence. The crimes specified in statute include vehicular manslaughter, malicious burning and

mischief, certain theft offenses, carrying or wearing a concealed weapon, and certain controlled dangerous substance offenses.

A petition for an interim protective order may be filed with a District Court commissioner if the clerk of the circuit court or clerk of the District Court is not open for business. If the commissioner finds there are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent has abused a person eligible for relief, the commissioner may issue an interim protective order. If, after a hearing on a petition, whether *ex parte* or otherwise, a judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe a person eligible for relief has been abused, the judge may issue a temporary protective order. The judge may proceed with a final protective order hearing instead of a temporary protective order hearing if the respondent appears at the hearing, the respondent has been served with an interim protective order, or the court otherwise has personal jurisdiction over the respondent, and the petitioner and respondent expressly consent to waive the temporary protective order hearing.

In a domestic violence proceeding, if a judge finds by clear and convincing evidence that abuse has occurred, or if the respondent consents to the entry of a protective order, the judge may grant a final protective order to protect any person eligible for relief from abuse.

A 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, in certain cases, award temporary use and possession of the home to the person eligible for relief;
- (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 provider's care;

- (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 under certain conditions;
- (9) award emergency family maintenance as necessary to support any person eligible for relief to whom the respondent has a duty of support;
- (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 under certain conditions;
- (11) 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 surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the respondent's possession for the duration of the protective order; or
- (13) order the respondent to pay filing fees and costs of the proceeding.

All relief granted in a final protective order is effective for the period stated in the order, up to a maximum of 12 months. A subsequent circuit court order pertaining to any of the provisions in the final protective order supersedes those provisions in the final protective order. A final protective order may be modified or rescinded during its term after giving notice to all affected persons eligible for relief and the respondent and after holding a hearing. For good cause shown, a judge may extend the term of a protective order for six months beyond the specified period after giving notice to all affected persons eligible for relief and the respondent and after a hearing. In limited circumstances specified by statute, the court may issue a permanent protective order that requires the respondent to refrain from abusing or threatening to abuse the person eligible for relief or refrain from contacting, attempting to contact, or harassing the person eligible for relief.

A person who violates specified provisions of a final protective order is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days imprisonment for a first offense and a \$2,500 fine and/or one-year imprisonment for a second or subsequent offense.

Background: The following table shows judicial activity in fiscal 2007 (the last information available) with regard to protective orders:

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Hearings</u>	<u>Interim Protective Orders Granted</u>	<u>Temporary Orders Granted</u>	<u>Final Protective Orders Granted</u>
Circuit Court	7,106	n/a	1,936	1,290
District Court	53,952	10,170	15,491	7,814

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 912 (Delegate Barnes) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Allegany and Montgomery counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2009
ncs/kdm

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