

ASSEMBLY, No. 5321

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

“Stephanie’s Law”; Requires AOC to establish publicly-accessible domestic violence registry; requires law enforcement officer to search State’s domestic violence registries when conducting arrest.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence and supplementing Title 2C
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction
8 with the Attorney General, shall develop and maintain a publicly-
9 accessible domestic violence Internet registry of any person in this
10 State who:

11 (1) has been convicted of a crime or offense involving domestic
12 violence as defined in subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261
13 (C.2C:25-19); or

14 (2) has had a final restraining order issued against them pursuant
15 to the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of
16 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.); or

17 (3) has committed contempt of a temporary or final restraining
18 order entered pursuant to the provisions of the "Prevention of
19 Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261
20 (C.2C:25-17 et al.).

21 b. The Internet registry established pursuant to this section
22 shall be separate from the domestic violence central registry
23 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c.421 (C.2C:25-34).

24 c. The Internet registry shall contain the following information
25 for any person to be included in the registry:

26 (1) the person's name and any aliases the person has used or
27 under which the person may be or may have been known;

28 (2) a brief description of any crime or offense involving
29 domestic violence for which the person was convicted; the date and
30 location of each disposition; and a general description of the
31 person's modus operandi, if applicable;

32 (3) the person's age, race, gender, date of birth, height, weight,
33 hair, eye color, and any distinguishing scars or tattoos;

34 (4) a photograph of the person and the date on which the
35 photograph was entered into the registry;

36 (5) the make, model, color, year, and license plate number of
37 any vehicle operated by the person; and

38 (6) the person's last known address.

39 d. A person whose name is erroneously included in the registry
40 established pursuant to this section may petition the Administrative
41 Office of the Courts for removal of the person's name. The
42 Administrative Office of the Courts shall remove the person's name
43 from the registry in response to the petition if the person:

44 (1) has not had a final domestic violence restraining order
45 entered against the person; or

46 (2) has not been found guilty of contempt of a temporary or
47 final restraining order entered pursuant to the provisions of the

1 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261
2 (C.2C:25-17 et al.); or

3 (3) has not been found guilty of a crime or offense involving
4 domestic violence.

5 e. Within five days of a change of address, a person whose
6 name is included in the Internet registry shall provide the
7 Administrative Office of the Courts with the new address.

8 f. On the website through which a person may search the
9 Internet registry, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall
10 include the following information regarding:

11 (1) the manner in which a person may petition the
12 Administrative Office of the Courts for removal of their name from
13 the registry;

14 (2) the circumstances under which the Administrative Office of
15 the Courts would grant the petition; and

16 (3) the manner in which a person may provide an updated
17 address.

18
19 2. a. A law enforcement officer conducting an arrest shall
20 determine if any domestic violence restraining order has been
21 entered against the arrested person. The determination shall include
22 a search of the central registry created pursuant to section 1 of
23 P.L.1999, c.421 (C.2C:25-34) and section 1 of P.L. , c.
24 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

25 b. The Attorney General may promulgate rules and regulations,
26 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
27 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
28 act.

29
30 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
31 month next following the date of enactment.

32 33 34 STATEMENT

35
36 This bill establishes "Stephanie's Law," to require the
37 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in conjunction with the
38 Attorney General, to develop and maintain a publicly-accessible
39 domestic violence Internet registry, and require law enforcement
40 officers to search the State's domestic violence registries upon
41 arresting a person. This registry established under the bill is to be
42 separate from the domestic violence central registry maintained by
43 the AOC pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:25-34, which is not accessible to
44 the public.

45 Under the bill, the public is to be able to access the registry to
46 obtain all available information concerning any person who has
47 been convicted of a crime or offense involving domestic violence;
48 has had a final domestic violence restraining order issued against

1 them; or has committed contempt of a temporary or final domestic
2 violence restraining order. The Internet registry is to contain the
3 following information for any person to be included in the registry:
4 (1) the person's name and any aliases the person has used or under
5 which the person may be or may have been known; (2) a brief
6 description of any crime or offense involving domestic violence for
7 which the person was convicted; the date and location of each
8 disposition; and a general description of the person's modus
9 operandi, if applicable; (3) the person's age, race, gender, date of
10 birth, height, weight, hair, eye color, and any distinguishing scars or
11 tattoos; (4) a photograph of the person and the date on which the
12 photograph was entered into the registry; (5) the make, model,
13 color, year, and license plate number of any vehicle operated by the
14 person; (6) and the person's last known address.

15 A person whose name is erroneously included in the registry
16 established under the bill may petition the AOC for removal of the
17 person's name. The AOC is required to remove the person's name
18 from the registry if the person has not had a final domestic violence
19 restraining order entered against them, has not been found guilty of
20 contempt of a temporary or final domestic violence restraining
21 order, or has not been found guilty of a crime or offense involving
22 domestic violence. Within five days of a change of address, a
23 person whose name is included in the registry is required provide
24 the AOC with the new address.

25 On the website through which a person may search the registry
26 established under the bill, the AOC is required to include
27 information regarding: the manner in which a person may petition
28 the AOC to remove their name; the circumstances under which the
29 AOC would grant a petition to remove their name; and the manner
30 in which a person may provide an updated address to the AOC.

31 In addition, the provisions of the bill require a law enforcement
32 officer to determine, upon an arrest, if there is a domestic violence
33 restraining order entered against the person. This determination is
34 to include a search of the central domestic violence registry
35 maintained by the AOC established pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:25-34,
36 as well as the publicly-accessible central registry established under
37 the bill.

38 This bill, designated "Stephanie's Law," is named after a
39 domestic violence victim, Stephanie Nicole Parze, who was
40 murdered by her ex-boyfriend. The Stephanie Nicole Parze
41 Foundation was created in her memory to provide support to
42 victims of domestic violence. This bill, which is intended to
43 provide additional protections for victims of domestic violence, is
44 named in her honor.