

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 46, *approved May 8, 2023*
Assembly, No. 1463

1 **AN ACT** concerning violations of pretrial release conditions and
2 amending N.J.S.2C:29-9 and P.L.1991, c.261.

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

6
7 1. N.J.S.2C:29-9 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:29-9. Contempt. a. (1) Except as provided in paragraph
9 (2) of this subsection, a [A] person is guilty of a crime of the fourth
10 degree if the person purposely or knowingly disobeys a judicial
11 order or protective order, pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1985, c.250
12 (C.2C:28-5.1), or hinders, obstructs, or impedes the effectuation of
13 a judicial order or the exercise of jurisdiction over any person,
14 thing, or controversy by a court, administrative body, or
15 investigative entity, or purposely or knowingly violates a condition
16 to avoid all contact with an alleged victim or a condition of home
17 detention with or without the use of an approved electronic
18 monitoring device, ordered pursuant to subparagraph (b) of
19 paragraph (1) or subparagraph (k) of paragraph (2) of subsection b.
20 of section 3 of P.L. 2014, c.31 (C.2A:162-17), when the conduct
21 which constitutes the violation could also constitute a crime or a
22 disorderly persons offense.

23 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
24 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates a condition
25 to avoid contact with an alleged victim or a condition of home
26 detention with or without the use of an approved electronic
27 monitoring device.

28 b. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a
29 person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if that person
30 purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order entered
31 under the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act
32 of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.) or an order entered
33 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws
34 of another state or the United States when the conduct which
35 constitutes the violation could also constitute a crime or a
36 disorderly persons offense.

37 Orders entered pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (8), and (9) of
38 subsection b. of section 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) or
39 substantially similar orders entered under the laws of another state

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 or the United States shall be excluded from the provisions of this
2 paragraph.

3 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
4 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates an order
5 entered under the provisions of the "Prevention of Domestic
6 Violence Act of 1991," P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.) or an
7 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
8 under the laws of another state or the United States.

9 Orders entered pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (8), and (9) of
10 subsection b. of section 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) or
11 substantially similar orders entered under the laws of another state
12 or the United States shall be excluded from the provisions of this
13 paragraph.

14 c. A person is guilty of a crime of the third degree if that
15 person purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order
16 entered under the provisions of section 3 of P.L.1996, c.39
17 (C.2C:12-10.1) or section 2 of P.L.1999, c.47 (C.2C:12-10.2) or an
18 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
19 under the laws of another state or the United States when the
20 conduct which constitutes the violation could also constitute a
21 crime or a disorderly persons offense.

22 d. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a
23 person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if that person
24 purposely or knowingly violates any provision in an order entered
25 under the provisions of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.) or an
26 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
27 under the laws of another state or the United States when the
28 conduct which constitutes the violation could also constitute a
29 crime or a disorderly persons offense.

30 (2) In all other cases a person is guilty of a disorderly persons
31 offense if that person purposely or knowingly violates an order
32 entered under the provisions of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et al.)
33 or an order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar
34 statute under the laws of another state or the United States.

35 e. A person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if the
36 person purposely or knowingly violates any provision of an order
37 entered under the provisions of the "Extreme Risk Protective Order
38 Act of 2018," P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et al.) or an order entered
39 under the provisions of a substantially similar statute under the laws
40 of another state or the United States.

41 As used in this section, "state" means a state of the United States,
42 the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
43 Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
44 jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes an Indian tribe
45 or band, or Alaskan native village, which is recognized by a federal
46 law or formally acknowledged by a state.

47 (cf: P.L.2018, c.35, s.12)

1 2. Section 10 of P.L. 1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-26) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 10. a. When a defendant charged with a crime or offense
4 involving domestic violence is released from custody before trial on
5 bail or personal recognizance, the court authorizing the release may
6 as a condition of release issue an order prohibiting the defendant
7 from having any contact with the victim including, but not limited
8 to, restraining the defendant from entering the victim's residence,
9 place of employment or business, or school, and from harassing or
10 stalking the victim or the victim's friends, co-workers, or relatives
11 in any way. The court may also enter an order prohibiting the
12 defendant from having any contact with any animal owned,
13 possessed, leased, kept, or held by either party or a minor child
14 residing in the household. In addition, the court may enter an order
15 directing the possession of the animal and providing that the animal
16 shall not be disposed of prior to the disposition of the crime or
17 offense. The court may enter an order prohibiting the defendant
18 from possessing any firearm or other weapon enumerated in
19 subsection r. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 and ordering the search for and
20 seizure of any such weapon at any location where the judge has
21 reasonable cause to believe the weapon is located. The judge shall
22 state with specificity the reasons for and scope of the search and
23 seizure authorized by the order.

24 b. The written court order releasing the defendant shall contain
25 the court's directives specifically restricting the defendant's ability
26 to have contact with the victim, the victim's friends, co-workers, or
27 relatives, or any animal owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by
28 either party or a minor child residing in the household. The [clerk
29 of the court or other person designated by the court] prosecutor
30 shall provide a copy of this order to the victim forthwith.

31 c. The victim's location shall remain confidential and shall not
32 appear on any documents or records to which the defendant has
33 access.

34 d. Before bail is set, the defendant's prior record shall be
35 considered by the court. The court shall also conduct a search of
36 the domestic violence central registry. Bail shall be set as soon as
37 is feasible, but in all cases within 24 hours of arrest.

38 e. Once bail is set it shall not be reduced without prior notice
39 to the county prosecutor and the victim. Bail shall not be reduced
40 by a judge other than the judge who originally ordered bail, unless
41 the reasons for the amount of the original bail are available to the
42 judge who reduces the bail and are set forth in the record.

43 f. A victim shall not be prohibited from applying for, and a
44 court shall not be prohibited from issuing, temporary restraints
45 pursuant to this act because the victim has charged any person with
46 commission of a criminal act.

47 (cf: P.L.2011, c.213, s.1)

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

5

6 Clarifies penalties for certain violations of pretrial release;
7 directs prosecutor to provide written notice of release to victim.