
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 835 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HOWARD, KINSEY, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG,
SANCHEZ, ROZZI AND DELLOSO, APRIL 4, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 4, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in protection from abuse, further
3 providing for definitions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. The definition of "abuse" in section 6102(a) of
7 Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
8 read:

9 § 6102. Definitions.

10 (a) General rule.--The following words and phrases when used
11 in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Abuse." The occurrence of one or more of the following acts
14 between [family or household members, sexual or intimate
15 partners or persons who share biological parenthood] persons:

16 (1) Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or
17 recklessly causing bodily injury, serious bodily injury,
18 rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault,

1 statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault,
2 indecent assault or incest with or without a deadly weapon.

3 (2) Placing another in reasonable fear of imminent
4 serious bodily injury.

5 (3) The infliction of false imprisonment pursuant to 18
6 Pa.C.S. § 2903 (relating to false imprisonment).

7 (4) Physically or sexually abusing minor children,
8 including such terms as defined in Chapter 63 (relating to
9 child protective services).

10 (5) Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct or
11 repeatedly committing acts toward another person, including
12 following the person, without proper authority, under
13 circumstances which place the person in reasonable fear of
14 bodily injury. The definition of this paragraph applies only
15 to proceedings commenced under this title and is inapplicable
16 to any criminal prosecutions commenced under Title 18
17 (relating to crimes and offenses).

18 (6) Wrongfully taking or attempting to take by
19 withholding, appropriating, concealing or using the money,
20 assets or property, through deception, intimidation or undue
21 influence.

22 (7) Harassment under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2709 (relating to
23 harassment).

24 * * *

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.