
HOUSE BILL 1996

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Appelwick, H. Myers, Wang, J. Kohl and Anderson

Read first time 02/19/93. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to domestic violence; amending RCW 26.50.035; and
2 creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that domestic violence
5 is a problem of immense proportions affecting individuals as well as
6 communities. Domestic violence has long been recognized as being at
7 the core of other major social problems including child abuse, crimes
8 of violence against persons and property, juvenile delinquency, and
9 alcohol and drug abuse. Domestic violence costs include the loss of
10 lives as well as millions of dollars each year in the state of
11 Washington for health care, absence from work, and services to
12 children. The crisis is growing.

13 While the existing domestic violence protection order process can
14 be a valuable tool to increase safety for victims and children and hold
15 batterers accountable, victims have difficulty completing the paperwork
16 required if they have limited English proficiency. Non-English
17 speaking clients may not be able to fully understand what papers they
18 must prepare for a court hearing or to fully understand what rights and

1 obligations they and the batterer have when a domestic violence
2 protection order is issued.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.50.035 and 1985 c 303 s 3 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 The administrator for the courts shall develop and prepare, in
6 consultation with interested persons, the forms and instructional
7 brochures required under RCW 26.50.030(~~(+3)~~) (4). The administrator
8 for the courts shall distribute a master copy of the forms and
9 instructional brochures to all court clerks.

10 The administrator for the courts shall arrange for translation of
11 the instructions and informational brochures required by this section,
12 which shall contain a sample of the standard petition and order for
13 protection forms, into Spanish, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and
14 Chinese, and shall distribute a master copy of the translated
15 instructions and informational brochures to all clerks by January 1,
16 1995.

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