

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6357**

Chapter 287, Laws of 2008

60th Legislature  
2008 Regular Session

SERVICE OF PROCESS--DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/12/08

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2008  
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 4, 2008  
YEAS 95 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 1, 2008, 2:13 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6357** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

April 2, 2008

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6357

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2008 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **60th Legislature**                      **2008 Regular Session**

**By** Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Regala, Kline, Murray, Fairley, McDermott, Hargrove, McCaslin, Tom, Marr, and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to service of process in domestic violence cases;  
2 amending RCW 26.50.050 and 26.50.130; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** This act shall be known as the Rebecca Jane  
5 Griego act. Recent tragic events have demonstrated the need to find  
6 ways to make legal protections for domestic violence victims more  
7 accessible. On March 6, 2007, Rebecca Jane Griego, an employee at the  
8 University of Washington, had obtained a temporary protection order  
9 against the man who eventually shot her and then himself in a murder-  
10 suicide on April 2, 2007. However, because her stalker had evaded the  
11 police and service of process, Ms. Griego had to return to court  
12 numerous times and did not have the opportunity to have a hearing for  
13 a permanent protection order. Under current court rules, which vary by  
14 court, if a process server fails to serve process after an unspecified  
15 number of times, process may be served by publication or by mail.  
16 Establishing greater uniformity in the service of process of petitions  
17 for orders for protection or modifications of protection orders in  
18 domestic violence cases may help to protect the safety of future  
19 domestic violence victims.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.50.050 and 1995 c 246 s 6 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall order a hearing which  
4 shall be held not later than fourteen days from the date of the order.  
5 The court may schedule a hearing by telephone pursuant to local court  
6 rule, to reasonably accommodate a disability, or in exceptional  
7 circumstances to protect a petitioner from further acts of domestic  
8 violence. The court shall require assurances of the petitioner's  
9 identity before conducting a telephonic hearing. Except as provided in  
10 RCW 26.50.085 and 26.50.123, personal service shall be made upon the  
11 respondent not less than five court days prior to the hearing. If  
12 timely personal service cannot be made, the court shall set a new  
13 hearing date and shall either require an additional attempt((s)) at  
14 obtaining personal service or permit service by publication as provided  
15 in RCW 26.50.085 or service by mail as provided in RCW 26.50.123. The  
16 court shall not require more than two attempts at obtaining personal  
17 service and shall permit service by publication or by mail unless the  
18 petitioner requests additional time to attempt personal service. If  
19 the court permits service by publication or by mail, the court shall  
20 set the hearing date not later than twenty-four days from the date of  
21 the order. The court may issue an ex parte order for protection  
22 pending the hearing as provided in RCW 26.50.070, 26.50.085, and  
23 26.50.123.

24       **Sec. 3.** RCW 26.50.130 and 1984 c 263 s 14 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26       (1) Upon application with notice to all parties and after a  
27 hearing, the court may modify the terms of an existing order for  
28 protection.

29       (2) Except as provided in RCW 26.50.085 and 26.50.123, personal  
30 service shall be made upon the nonmoving party not less than five court  
31 days prior to the hearing to modify.

32       (a) If timely personal service cannot be made, the court shall set  
33 a new hearing date and shall either require an additional attempt at  
34 obtaining personal service or permit service by publication as provided  
35 in RCW 26.50.085 or service by mail as provided in RCW 26.50.123.

36       (b) The court shall not require more than two attempts at obtaining

1 personal service and shall permit service by publication or by mail  
2 unless the moving party requests additional time to attempt personal  
3 service.

4 (c) If the court permits service by publication or by mail, the  
5 court shall set the hearing date not later than twenty-four days from  
6 the date of the order permitting service by publication or by mail.

7 (3) In any situation where an order is terminated or modified  
8 before its expiration date, the clerk of the court shall forward on or  
9 before the next judicial day a true copy of the modified order or the  
10 termination order to the appropriate law enforcement agency specified  
11 in the modified or termination order. Upon receipt of the order, the  
12 law enforcement agency shall promptly enter it in the law enforcement  
13 information system.

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2008.

Passed by the House March 4, 2008.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2008.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 2, 2008.