

§4655. Relief

1. Protection order; consent agreement. The court, after a hearing and upon finding that the defendant has committed the harassment alleged, may grant any protection order or approve any consent agreement to bring about a cessation of harassment, which may include:

A. Directing the defendant to refrain from harassing, threatening, assaulting, molesting, attacking or otherwise abusing the plaintiff or the plaintiff's employees; [PL 1995, c. 265, §7 (AMD).]

B. Directing the defendant to refrain from going on the premises of the plaintiff's residence or property, provided that the court may not use this subsection to evict a defendant from the rental premises in an action brought by a plaintiff; [PL 1995, c. 265, §8 (AMD).]

C. Directing the defendant to refrain from interference with or destruction of the plaintiff's property; [PL 1993, c. 199, §6 (AMD).]

C-1. Directing the defendant to refrain from repeatedly and without reasonable cause:

(1) Following the plaintiff; or

(2) Being at or in the vicinity of the plaintiff's home, school, business or place of employment; [PL 1993, c. 475, §2 (NEW).]

C-2. Directing the defendant to refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with the plaintiff; [PL 2001, c. 134, §3 (NEW).]

D. Ordering payment of monetary compensation to the plaintiff for losses suffered as a direct result of the harassment. Compensatory losses are limited to loss of earnings or support; reasonable expenses incurred for safety protection; reasonable expenses incurred for personal injuries or property damage; and reasonable moving expenses. Upon the motion of either party, for sufficient cause, the court may set a later hearing on the issue of the amount of damages, if any, to be awarded. If it appears from the complaint that an order under this paragraph may be granted, the plaintiff or defendant may remove the issue of monetary compensation to the Superior Court where a jury trial may be had. Removal must be requested by motion prior to a hearing under section 4654; [PL 2003, c. 658, §8 (AMD).]

E. Ordering the defendant to pay court costs or reasonable attorney's fees; [PL 2015, c. 410, Pt. C, §5 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 443, §5 (AMD).]

F. Entering any other orders determined necessary or appropriate in the discretion of the court; [PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §8 (RPR).]

G. With respect to unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as described in Title 17-A, section 511-A, ordering the defendant to remove, destroy or return or to direct the removal, destruction or return of the private images, ordering the defendant to cease the dissemination of the private images and prohibiting the defendant from disseminating the private images; [PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

H. With respect to unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as described in Title 17-A, section 511-A, entering any orders determined necessary or appropriate in the discretion of the court, including but not limited to ordering the defendant to pay costs associated with removal, destruction or return of the private images; or [PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §10 (AMD).]

I. Prohibiting the defendant from destroying, transferring or tampering with the plaintiff's passport or other immigration document in the defendant's possession. [PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §11 (NEW).]

If the court enjoins the defendant under this subsection, and the enjoined conduct constitutes harassment under Title 17-A, section 506-A, the court shall include in the order a warning in conformity with Title 17-A, section 506-A.

[PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §§8-11 (AMD).]

1-A. Judgment against plaintiff. If a judgment is entered against the plaintiff and the court finds that the complaint is frivolous, the court may order the plaintiff to pay court costs, reasonable attorney's fees or both.

[PL 2009, c. 263, §1 (NEW).]

2. Duration. Any protective order or approved consent agreement shall be for a fixed period not to exceed one year. At the expiration of that time, the court may extend an order, upon motion of the plaintiff, for such additional time as it deems necessary to protect the plaintiff from harassment. Upon motion by either party, for sufficient cause, the court may modify the order or agreement from time to time as circumstances require.

[PL 1987, c. 515, §1 (NEW).]

3. Consequences of violation. Any protective order or approved consent agreement shall indicate, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the potential consequences of violation of the order or agreement.

[PL 1987, c. 515, §1 (NEW).]

4. Title to property. No order or agreement may affect title to any real property.

[PL 1987, c. 515, §1 (NEW).]

5. Bond prohibited. The court shall not require the execution of a bond by the plaintiff prior to issuance of any order of protection.

[PL 1987, c. 515, §1 (NEW).]

6. Service of order or consent decree. The court shall order a law enforcement agency; or, if the defendant is present in the courthouse, a court security officer qualified pursuant to Title 4, section 17, subsection 15; or, if the defendant is in the custody of the Department of Corrections, the chief administrative officer or the chief administrative officer's designee at the correctional facility, to serve the defendant personally with a protective order or consent decree.

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, service of an order may be made pursuant to this section through the use of electronically transmitted printed copies of orders that have been transmitted directly from the court to the law enforcement agency or correctional facility making service. Return of proof of service may be made by electronic transmission of the proof of service directly to the court from the law enforcement officer making service or the chief administrative officer, or the chief administrative officer's designee, of the correctional facility making service.

[PL 2009, c. 555, §2 (NEW).]

B. In any subsequent criminal prosecution for violation of this section when the service of an order was made through the use of an electronically transmitted printed copy of the order, with 10 days' advance written notice to the prosecution, the defendant may request that the prosecution call as a witness the law enforcement officer who served the order or the chief administrative officer, or the chief administrative officer's designee, of the correctional facility that served the order. [PL 2009, c. 555, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 555, §§2, 3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 515, §1 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 708, §5 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 199, §6 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 475, §2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 265, §§7-9 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 542, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 134, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 658, §8 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 94, §2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 263, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 555, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 410, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 443, §§5, 6 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §§8-11 (AMD).

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