SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 923

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROWDEN.

Read 1st time January 17, 2018, and ordered printed.

5690S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 452.375, 452.377, 589.660, 589.663, 589.664, 589.666, 589.669, 589.672, and 589.678, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof nine new sections relating to the address confidentiality program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 452.375, 452.377, 589.660, 589.663, 589.664, 589.666,

- 2 589.669, 589.672, and 589.678, RSMo, are repealed and nine new sections enacted
- 3 in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 452.375, 452.377, 589.660, 589.663,
- 4 589.664, 589.666, 589.669, 589.672, and 589.678, to read as follows:
- 452.375. 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates 2 otherwise:
- 3 (1) "Custody" means joint legal custody, sole legal custody, joint physical 4 custody or sole physical custody or any combination thereof;
- 5 (2) "Joint legal custody" means that the parents share the
- 6 decision-making rights, responsibilities, and authority relating to the health,
- 7 education and welfare of the child, and, unless allocated, apportioned, or decreed,
- 8 the parents shall confer with one another in the exercise of decision-making
- 9 rights, responsibilities, and authority;
- 10 (3) "Joint physical custody" means an order awarding each of the parents
- 11 significant, but not necessarily equal, periods of time during which a child resides
- 12 with or is under the care and supervision of each of the parents. Joint physical
- 13 custody shall be shared by the parents in such a way as to assure the child of
- 14 frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents;
- 15 (4) "Third-party custody" means a third party designated as a legal and
- 16 physical custodian pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection 5 of this section.

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- 2. The court shall determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child. When the parties have not reached an agreement on all issues related to custody, the court shall consider all relevant factors and enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, the following:
- 21 (1) The wishes of the child's parents as to custody and the proposed 22 parenting plan submitted by both parties;
 - (2) The needs of the child for a frequent, continuing and meaningful relationship with both parents and the ability and willingness of parents to actively perform their functions as mother and father for the needs of the child;
- 26 (3) The interaction and interrelationship of the child with parents, 27 siblings, and any other person who may significantly affect the child's best 28 interests;
 - (4) Which parent is more likely to allow the child frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with the other parent;
 - (5) The child's adjustment to the child's home, school, and community;
 - (6) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved, including any history of abuse of any individuals involved. If the court finds that a pattern of domestic violence as defined in section 455.010 has occurred, and, if the court also finds that awarding custody to the abusive parent is in the best interest of the child, then the court shall enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law. Custody and visitation rights shall be ordered in a manner that best protects the child and any other child or children for whom the parent has custodial or visitation rights, and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence from any further harm;
- 41 (7) The intention of either parent to relocate the principal residence of the 42 child; and
 - (8) The wishes of a child as to the child's custodian. The fact that a parent sends his or her child or children to a home school, as defined in section 167.031, shall not be the sole factor that a court considers in determining custody of such child or children.
- 3. (1) In any court proceedings relating to custody of a child, the court shall not award custody or unsupervised visitation of a child to a parent if such parent or any person residing with such parent has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any of the following offenses when a child was the victim:
- 51 (a) A felony violation of section 566.030, 566.032, 566.031, 566.060, 52 566.062, 566.064, 566.067, 566.068, 566.061, 566.083, 566.101, 566.100, 566.111,

53 566.151, 566.203, 566.206, 566.209, 566.211, or 566.215;

- 54 (b) A violation of section 568.020;
- 55 (c) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 568.060;
- 56 (d) A violation of section 568.065;
- (e) A violation of section 573.200; 57
- (f) A violation of section 573.205; or 58
- 59 (g) A violation of section 568.175.

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- (2) For all other violations of offenses in chapters 566 and 568 not 60 specifically listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection or for a violation of an 61 offense committed in another state when a child is the victim that would be a 62 violation of chapter 566 or 568 if committed in Missouri, the court may exercise 64 its discretion in awarding custody or visitation of a child to a parent if such 65 parent or any person residing with such parent has been found guilty of, or pled 66 guilty to, any such offense.
- 67 4. The general assembly finds and declares that it is the public policy of 68 this state that frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents 69 after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage is in the best interest of the child, except for cases where the court specifically finds that such 70 71contact is not in the best interest of the child, and that it is the public policy of this state to encourage parents to participate in decisions affecting the health, 73 education and welfare of their children, and to resolve disputes involving their 74children amicably through alternative dispute resolution. In order to effectuate these policies, the court shall determine the custody arrangement which will best 75assure both parents participate in such decisions and have frequent, continuing 76 77 and meaningful contact with their children so long as it is in the best interests of the child. 78
- 79 5. Prior to awarding the appropriate custody arrangement in the best interest of the child, the court shall consider each of the following as follows: 80
- 81 (1) Joint physical and joint legal custody to both parents, which shall not 82 be denied solely for the reason that one parent opposes a joint physical and joint 83 legal custody award. The residence of one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and educational purposes; 84
- 85 (2) Joint physical custody with one party granted sole legal custody. The 86 residence of one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and educational purposes;
 - (3) Joint legal custody with one party granted sole physical custody;

- 89 (4) Sole custody to either parent; or
- 90 (5) Third-party custody or visitation:
- 91 (a) When the court finds that each parent is unfit, unsuitable, or unable
 92 to be a custodian, or the welfare of the child requires, and it is in the best
 93 interests of the child, then custody, temporary custody or visitation may be
 94 awarded to any other person or persons deemed by the court to be suitable and
 95 able to provide an adequate and stable environment for the child. Before the
 96 court awards custody, temporary custody or visitation to a third person under this
 97 subdivision, the court shall make that person a party to the action;
 - (b) Under the provisions of this subsection, any person may petition the court to intervene as a party in interest at any time as provided by supreme court rule.
 - 6. If the parties have not agreed to a custodial arrangement, or the court determines such arrangement is not in the best interest of the child, the court shall include a written finding in the judgment or order based on the public policy in subsection 4 of this section and each of the factors listed in subdivisions (1) to (8) of subsection 2 of this section detailing the specific relevant factors that made a particular arrangement in the best interest of the child. If a proposed custodial arrangement is rejected by the court, the court shall include a written finding in the judgment or order detailing the specific relevant factors resulting in the rejection of such arrangement.
 - 7. Upon a finding by the court that either parent has refused to exchange information with the other parent, which shall include but not be limited to information concerning the health, education and welfare of the child, the court shall order the parent to comply immediately and to pay the prevailing party a sum equal to the prevailing party's cost associated with obtaining the requested information, which shall include but not be limited to reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.
 - 8. As between the parents of a child, no preference may be given to either parent in the awarding of custody because of that parent's age, sex, or financial status, nor because of the age or sex of the child. The court shall not presume that a parent, solely because of his or her sex, is more qualified than the other parent to act as a joint or sole legal or physical custodian for the child.
 - 9. Any judgment providing for custody shall include a specific written parenting plan setting forth the terms of such parenting plan arrangements specified in subsection 8 of section 452.310. Such plan may be a parenting plan

submitted by the parties pursuant to section 452.310 or, in the absence thereof, a plan determined by the court, but in all cases, the custody plan approved and ordered by the court shall be in the court's discretion and shall be in the best interest of the child.

- 10. After August 28, 2016, every court order establishing or modifying custody or visitation shall include the following language: "In the event of noncompliance with this order, the aggrieved party may file a verified motion for contempt. If custody, visitation, or third-party custody is denied or interfered with by a parent or third party without good cause, the aggrieved person may file a family access motion with the court stating the specific facts that constitute a violation of the custody provisions of the judgment of dissolution, legal separation, or judgment of paternity. The circuit clerk will provide the aggrieved party with an explanation of the procedures for filing a family access motion and a simple form for use in filing the family access motion. A family access motion does not require the assistance of legal counsel to prepare and file.".
- 11. No court shall adopt any local rule, form, or practice requiring a standardized or default parenting plan for interim, temporary, or permanent orders or judgments. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a court may enter an interim order in a proceeding under this chapter, provided that the interim order shall not contain any provisions about child custody or a parenting schedule or plan without first providing the parties with notice and a hearing, unless the parties otherwise agree.
- 12. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights pursuant to this section or visitation rights under section 452.400, both parents shall have access to records and information pertaining to a minor child including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records. If the parent without custody has been granted restricted or supervised visitation because the court has found that the parent with custody or any child has been the victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.010, by the parent without custody, the court may order that the reports and records made available pursuant to this subsection not include the address of the parent with custody or the child. The court shall order that the reports and records made available under this subsection shall not include the address of the parent with custody if that parent is a participant in the address confidentiality program under sections 589.660 to 589.681. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights pursuant to this section or visitation rights under section 452.400, any

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judgment of dissolution or other applicable court order shall specifically allow both parents access to such records and reports.

- 13. Except as otherwise precluded by state or federal law, if any individual, professional, public or private institution or organization denies access or fails to provide or disclose any and all records and information, including, but not limited to, past and present dental, medical and school records pertaining to a minor child, to either parent upon the written request of such parent, the court shall, upon its finding that the individual, professional, public or private institution or organization denied such request without good cause, order that party to comply immediately with such request and to pay to the prevailing party all costs incurred, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and court costs associated with obtaining the requested information.
- 14. An award of joint custody does not preclude an award of child support pursuant to section 452.340 and applicable supreme court rules. The court shall consider the factors contained in section 452.340 and applicable supreme court rules in determining an amount reasonable or necessary for the support of the child.
- 15. If the court finds that domestic violence or abuse as defined in section 455.010 has occurred, the court shall make specific findings of fact to show that the custody or visitation arrangement ordered by the court best protects the child and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.010, and any other children for whom such parent has custodial or visitation rights from any further harm.
 - 452.377. 1. For purposes of this section and section 452.375, "relocate" or "relocation" means a change in the principal residence of a child for a period of ninety days or more, but does not include a temporary absence from the principal residence.
- 2. Notice of a proposed relocation of the residence of the child, or any party entitled to custody or visitation of the child, shall be given in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any party with custody or visitation rights. Absent exigent circumstances as determined by a court with jurisdiction, written notice shall be provided at least sixty days in advance of the proposed relocation. The notice of the proposed relocation shall include the following information:
- 12 (1) The intended new residence, including the specific address and mailing 13 address, if known, and if not known, the city;

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14 (2) The home telephone number of the new residence, if known;

- (3) The date of the intended move or proposed relocation;
- 16 (4) A brief statement of the specific reasons for the proposed relocation of 17 a child, if applicable; and
- 18 (5) A proposal for a revised schedule of custody or visitation with the 19 child, if applicable.
- 3. If a party seeking to relocate a child is a participant in the address confidentiality program under sections 589.660 to 589.681, such party shall not be required to provide the information required in subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section, but may be required to submit such information under seal to the court for in camera review. Prior to disclosure of this information, a court shall comply with the provisions of section 589.664.
- 4. A party required to give notice of a proposed relocation pursuant to subsection 2 of this section has a continuing duty to provide a change in or addition to the information required by this section as soon as such information becomes known.
- [4.] 5. In exceptional circumstances where the court makes a finding that the health or safety of any adult or child would be unreasonably placed at risk by the disclosure of the required identifying information concerning a proposed relocation of the child, the court may order that:
 - (1) The specific residence address and telephone number of the child, parent or person, and other identifying information shall not be disclosed in the pleadings, notice, other documents filed in the proceeding or the final order except for an in camera disclosure;
 - (2) The notice requirements provided by this section shall be waived to the extent necessary to protect the health or safety of a child or any adult; or
- 41 (3) Any other remedial action the court considers necessary to facilitate 42 the legitimate needs of the parties and the best interest of the child.
- 43 [5.] **6.** The court shall consider a failure to provide notice of a proposed 44 relocation of a child as:
- 45 (1) A factor in determining whether custody and visitation should be 46 modified;
- 47 (2) A basis for ordering the return of the child if the relocation occurs 48 without notice; and
- 49 (3) Sufficient cause to order the party seeking to relocate the child to pay

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reasonable expenses and attorneys fees incurred by the party objecting to the 50 51 relocation.

- [6.] 7. If the parties agree to a revised schedule of custody and visitation for the child, which includes a parenting plan, they may submit the terms of such agreement to the court with a written affidavit signed by all parties with custody or visitation assenting to the terms of the agreement, and the court may order the revised parenting plan and applicable visitation schedule without a hearing.
- [7.] 8. The residence of the child may be relocated sixty days after providing notice, as required by this section, unless a parent files a motion 58 59 seeking an order to prevent the relocation within thirty days after receipt of such 60 notice. Such motion shall be accompanied by an affidavit setting forth the 61 specific factual basis supporting a prohibition of the relocation. The person 62 seeking relocation shall file a response to the motion within fourteen days, unless extended by the court for good cause, and include a counter-affidavit setting forth 63 the facts in support of the relocation as well as a proposed revised parenting plan 64 for the child.
- 66 [8.] 9. If relocation of the child is proposed, a third party entitled by court order to legal custody of or visitation with a child and who is not a parent 67 68 may file a cause of action to obtain a revised schedule of legal custody or visitation, but shall not prevent a relocation. 69
- 70 [9.] 10. The party seeking to relocate shall have the burden of proving that the proposed relocation is made in good faith and is in the best interest of 71 72 the child.
 - [10.] 11. If relocation is permitted:
- 74 (1) The court shall order contact with the nonrelocating party including custody or visitation and telephone access sufficient to assure that the child has 75frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with the nonrelocating party unless 76 77 the child's best interest warrants otherwise; and
- (2) The court shall specify how the transportation costs will be allocated between the parties and adjust the child support, as appropriate, considering the 79 costs of transportation.
- [11.] 12. After August 28, 1998, every court order establishing or 81 82 modifying custody or visitation shall include the following language:
- 83 "Absent exigent circumstances as determined by a court with 84 jurisdiction, you, as a party to this action, are ordered to notify, in 85 writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, and at least

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sixty days prior to the proposed relocation, each party to this action of any proposed relocation of the principal residence of the child, including the following information:

- (1) The intended new residence, including the specific address and mailing address, if known, and if not known, the city;
- (2) The home telephone number of the new residence, if known;
- (3) The date of the intended move or proposed relocation;
- 93 (4) A brief statement of the specific reasons for the proposed 94 relocation of the child; and
- 95 (5) A proposal for a revised schedule of custody or visitation with the child.

Your obligation to provide this information to each party continues as long as you or any other party by virtue of this order is entitled to custody of a child covered by this order. Your failure to obey the order of this court regarding the proposed relocation may result in further litigation to enforce such order, including contempt of court. In addition, your failure to notify a party of a relocation of the child may be considered in a proceeding to modify custody or visitation with the child. Reasonable costs and attorney fees may be assessed against you if you fail to give the required notice."

- 13. A participant in the address confidentiality program under sections 589.660 to 589.681 shall not be required to provide a requesting party with the specific physical or mailing address of the child's proposed relocation destination; provided, that in the event of an objection by a requesting party, a participant may be required to submit such information under seal to the court for in camera review. Prior to disclosure of this information, a court shall comply with the provisions of section 589.664.
- 114 [12.] 14. Violation of the provisions of this section or a court order under 115 this section may be deemed a change of circumstance under section 452.410, 116 allowing the court to modify the prior custody decree. In addition, the court may 117 utilize any and all powers relating to contempt conferred on it by law or rule of 118 the Missouri supreme court.
- 119 **[**13.**] 15.** Any party who objects in good faith to the relocation of a child's principal residence shall not be ordered to pay the costs and attorney's fees of the party seeking to relocate.

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589.660. As used in sections 589.660 to 589.681, the following terms 2 mean:

- 3 (1) "Address", a residential street address, school address, or work address 4 of a person, as specified on the person's application to be a program participant;
- 5 (2) "Application assistant", an employee **or volunteer** of a [state or local]
 6 **government** agency, or of a nonprofit program that provides counseling, referral,
 7 shelter, or other specialized service to victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual
 8 assault, human trafficking, [or] stalking, **or other crimes,** who has been
 9 designated by the respective agency or program, and who has been trained and
 10 registered by the secretary of state to assist individuals in the completion of
- 12 (3) "Designated address", the address assigned to a program participant 13 by the secretary;
- 14 (4) "Mailing address", an address that is recognized for delivery by the 15 United States Postal Service;
- 16 (5) "Program", the address confidentiality program established in section 17 589.663;
- 18 (6) "Program participant", a person certified by the secretary of state as 19 eligible to participate in the address confidentiality program;
- 20 (7) "Secretary", the secretary of state.

program participation applications;

- 589.663. 1. There is created in the office of the secretary of state a program to be known as the "Address Confidentiality Program" to protect victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking, who fear for their safety, as well as the safety of individuals residing in the same household as the victim, by authorizing the use of designated addresses for such victims and [their minor children] individuals residing with them. The program shall be administered by the secretary under the following application and certification procedures:
- 9 (1) An adult person, a parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor, or 10 a guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated person may apply to the secretary 11 to have a designated address assigned by the secretary to serve as the person's 12 address or the address of the minor or incapacitated person;
- 13 (2) The secretary may approve an application [only] if it is filed with the 14 office of the secretary in the manner established by rule and on a form prescribed 15 by the secretary. A completed application shall contain:
- 16 (a) The [application preparation date] date the application was

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prepared, the applicant's signature, and the signature and registration number 17 18 of the application assistant who assisted the applicant in applying to be a 19 program participant;

- 20 (b) A designation of the secretary as agent for purposes of service of process and for receipt of first-class mail, legal documents, and certified mail;
- 22 (c) A [sworn] statement [by] that the applicant [that the applicant] has 23 good reason to believe that he or she:
 - a. Is a victim of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking, or resides in the same household as a victim; and
 - b. Fears [further violent acts from his or her assailant] future harm, including harm as a result of other crimes;
 - (d) [The] A mailing address where the applicant may be contacted by the secretary or a designee and the telephone number or numbers where the applicant may be called by the secretary or the secretary's designee; and
 - (e) One or more addresses that the applicant requests not be disclosed for the reason that disclosure will jeopardize the applicant's safety or increase the risk of violence to the applicant or members of the applicant's household;
 - (3) Upon receipt of a [properly] completed application, the secretary may certify the applicant as a program participant. A program participant is certified for four years following the date of initial certification unless the certification is withdrawn by the applicant or cancelled by the secretary before that date. The secretary shall send notification of [lapsing] an expiring certification and a [reapplication] renewal form to a program participant at least four weeks prior to the expiration of the program participant's certification[;]. The renewal shall be signed by the applicant and such signature shall not be required to be made before an application assistant; and
- 43 (4) The secretary shall forward first class mail, legal documents, and certified mail to the appropriate program participants. 44
- 45 2. This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate the 46 purposes and intent of the program and any omission on the part of the secretary in administering the program shall not result in the 47 disqualification or removal from the program of an applicant or 48 participant. 49
 - 589.664. 1. If an individual is **deemed** a participant in the address confidentiality program [under section 589.663] by the secretary, no person or entity shall be compelled to disclose the participant's actual address during the

4 discovery phase of or during a proceeding before a court or other tribunal unless

- 5 the court or tribunal first finds, on the record, that:
- 6 (1) There is a reasonable belief that the address is needed to obtain
- 7 information or evidence without which the investigation, prosecution, or litigation
- 8 cannot proceed; and

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- 9 (2) There is no other practicable way of obtaining the information or 10 evidence.
- 11 2. The court shall first provide the program participant and the secretary 12 [of state] notice that address disclosure is sought.
- 3. The program participant shall have an opportunity to present evidence regarding the potential harm to the safety of the program participant if the address is disclosed. In determining whether to compel disclosure, the court shall consider whether the potential harm to the safety of the participant is outweighed by the interest in disclosure.
- 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no court shall order an individual who has had his or her application to the program accepted by the secretary to disclose his or her actual address or the location of his or her residence without giving the secretary proper notice. The secretary shall have the right to intervene in any civil proceeding in which a court is considering ordering a participant to disclose his or her actual address.
 - 5. Disclosure of a participant's actual address under this section shall be limited under the terms of the order to ensure that the disclosure and dissemination of the actual address will be no greater than necessary for the purposes of the investigation, prosecution, or litigation.
- 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the court or any other tribunal from issuing a protective order to prevent the disclosure of information other than the participant's actual address that could reasonably lead to the discovery of the program participant's location.

589.666. Certification of a program participant may be cancelled by the 2 secretary if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- (1) If the program participant obtains a name change, unless the program participant provides the secretary with documentation of a legal name change within ten business days of the name change;
- 6 (2) If there is a change in the mailing address [from] for the person listed 7 on the application, unless the program participant provides the secretary with 8 notice of the change in such manner as the secretary provides by rule; [or]

9 (3) The participant relocates outside of the state of Missouri; or

10 **(4)** The applicant or program participant violates subdivision (2) of 11 section 589.663.

589.669. Upon demonstration [of a program participant's certification in the program, state and local] that an applicant has been accepted into the program by the secretary, government agencies and the courts shall accept the designated address as a program participant's address when creating a new public record unless the secretary has determined that:

- 6 (1) [The] An agency has a bona fide statutory or administrative 7 requirement for the use of the program participant's address or mailing address[, 8 such that it is] and is unable to fulfill its statutory duties and obligations 9 without the address; and
- 10 (2) The program participant's address or mailing address shall be used 11 only for those statutory and administrative purposes **and shall not be made** 12 **publicly available**.

589.672. If the secretary deems it appropriate, the secretary may make a program participant's address or mailing address available for inspection or copying, under the following circumstances:

- 4 (1) If [requested of the secretary by] a law enforcement agency makes a 5 request for such availability in the manner provided for by rule; or
- 6 (2) [Upon request to the secretary by] If a director of a [state]
 7 government agency or the director's designee makes a request for such
 8 availability in the manner provided for by rule and upon a showing of a bona
 9 fide statutory or administrative requirement for the use of the program
 10 participant's address or mailing address, such that the director or the director's
 11 designee is unable to fulfill statutory duties and obligations without the address
 12 or mailing address.

589.678. A program participant's application [and], all supporting materials [are], and all communications with the program shall not [a] be considered public [record and shall be kept confidential by the secretary] records and shall not be subject to disclosure under chapter 610.

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