

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMENDMENTS**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor: Angela Romero

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions in the Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ amends provisions related to a plea of guilty or no contest to a domestic violence offense.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**77-36-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 39

**77-36-1.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 55

ENACTS:

**77-36-1.2**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **77-36-1** is amended to read:

**77-36-1. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Cohabitant" has the same meaning as in Section **78B-7-102**.

- 30 (2) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.
- 31 (3) "Divorced" means an individual who has obtained a divorce under Title 30, Chapter  
32 3, Divorce.
- 33 (4) "Domestic violence" or "domestic violence offense" means any criminal offense  
34 involving violence or physical harm or threat of violence or physical harm, or any attempt,  
35 conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving violence or physical harm,  
36 when committed by one cohabitant against another. "Domestic violence" or "domestic  
37 violence offense" also means commission or attempt to commit, any of the following offenses  
38 by one cohabitant against another:
- 39 (a) aggravated assault, as described in Section 76-5-103;
  - 40 (b) assault, as described in Section 76-5-102;
  - 41 (c) criminal homicide, as described in Section 76-5-201;
  - 42 (d) harassment, as described in Section 76-5-106;
  - 43 (e) electronic communication harassment, as described in Section 76-9-201;
  - 44 (f) kidnapping, child kidnapping, or aggravated kidnapping, as described in Sections  
45 76-5-301, 76-5-301.1, and 76-5-302;
  - 46 (g) mayhem, as described in Section 76-5-105;
  - 47 (h) sexual offenses, as described in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses, and  
48 Section 76-5b-201, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor;
  - 49 (i) stalking, as described in Section 76-5-106.5;
  - 50 (j) unlawful detention or unlawful detention of a minor, as described in Section  
51 76-5-304;
  - 52 (k) violation of a protective order or ex parte protective order, as described in Section  
53 76-5-108;
  - 54 (l) any offense against property described in Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 1, Property  
55 Destruction, Part 2, Burglary and Criminal Trespass, or Part 3, Robbery;
  - 56 (m) possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault, as described in Section  
57 76-10-507;

58 (n) discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any  
59 person, building, or vehicle, as described in Section 76-10-508;

60 (o) disorderly conduct, as defined in Section 76-9-102, if a conviction of disorderly  
61 conduct is the result of a plea agreement in which the defendant was originally charged with  
62 ~~[any of the]~~ a domestic violence ~~[offenses]~~ offense otherwise described in this Subsection (4).  
63 Conviction of disorderly conduct as a domestic violence offense, in the manner described in  
64 this Subsection (4)(o), does not constitute a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence under 18  
65 U.S.C. Section 921, and is exempt from the provisions of the federal Firearms Act, 18 U.S.C.  
66 Section 921 et seq.; or

67 (p) child abuse as described in Section 76-5-109.1.

68 (5) "Jail release agreement" means a written agreement:

69 (a) specifying and limiting the contact a person arrested for a domestic violence offense  
70 may have with an alleged victim or other specified individuals; and

71 (b) specifying other conditions of release from jail as required in Subsection  
72 77-36-2.5(2).

73 (6) "Jail release court order" means a written court order:

74 (a) specifying and limiting the contact a person arrested for a domestic violence offense  
75 may have with an alleged victim or other specified individuals; and

76 (b) specifying other conditions of release from jail as required in Subsection  
77 77-36-2.5(2).

78 (7) "Marital status" means married and living together, divorced, separated, or not  
79 married.

80 (8) "Married and living together" means a man and a woman whose marriage was  
81 solemnized under Section 30-1-4 or 30-1-6 and who are living in the same residence.

82 (9) "Not married" means any living arrangement other than married and living together,  
83 divorced, or separated.

84 (10) "Pretrial protective order" means a written order:

85 (a) specifying and limiting the contact a person who has been charged with a domestic

86 violence offense may have with an alleged victim or other specified individuals; and

87 (b) specifying other conditions of release pursuant to Subsection 77-36-2.5(3)(c),  
88 Subsection 77-36-2.6(3), or Section 77-36-2.7, pending trial in the criminal case.

89 (11) "Sentencing protective order" means a written order of the court as part of  
90 sentencing in a domestic violence case that limits the contact a person who has been convicted  
91 of a domestic violence offense may have with a victim or other specified individuals pursuant  
92 to Sections 77-36-5 and 77-36-5.1.

93 (12) "Separated" means a man and a woman who have had their marriage solemnized  
94 under Section 30-1-4 or 30-1-6 and who are not living in the same residence.

95 (13) "Victim" means a cohabitant who has been subjected to domestic violence.

96 Section 2. Section 77-36-1.1 is amended to read:

97 **77-36-1.1. Enhancement of offense and penalty for subsequent domestic violence**  
98 **offenses.**

99 (1) For purposes of this section, "qualifying domestic violence offense" means:

100 (a) a domestic violence offense in Utah; or

101 (b) an offense in any other state, or in any district, possession, or territory of the United  
102 States, that would be a domestic violence offense under Utah law.

103 (2) A person who is convicted of a domestic violence offense is:

104 (a) guilty of a class B misdemeanor if:

105 (i) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is designated by law  
106 as a class C misdemeanor; and

107 (ii) (A) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is committed  
108 within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence offense; or

109 (B) the person is convicted of the domestic violence offense described in this  
110 Subsection (2) within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence  
111 offense;

112 (b) guilty of a class A misdemeanor if:

113 (i) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is designated by law

114 as a class B misdemeanor; and

115 (ii) (A) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is committed  
116 within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence offense; or

117 (B) the person is convicted of the domestic violence offense described in this  
118 Subsection (2) within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence  
119 offense; or

120 (c) guilty of a felony of the third degree if:

121 (i) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is designated by law  
122 as a class A misdemeanor; and

123 (ii) (A) the domestic violence offense described in this Subsection (2) is committed  
124 within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence offense; or

125 (B) the person is convicted of the domestic violence offense described in this  
126 Subsection (2) within five years after the person is convicted of a qualifying domestic violence  
127 offense.

128 ~~[(3) For purposes of this section, a plea of guilty or no contest to any qualifying  
129 domestic violence offense in Utah which plea is held in abeyance under Title 77, Chapter 2a,  
130 Pleas in Abeyance, is the equivalent of a conviction, even if the charge has been subsequently  
131 reduced or dismissed in accordance with the plea in abeyance agreement.]~~

132 Section 3. Section **77-36-1.2** is enacted to read:

133 **77-36-1.2. Acceptance of a plea of guilty or no contest to domestic violence --**

134 **Restrictions.**

135 (1) For purposes of this section, "qualifying domestic violence offense" means:

136 (a) a domestic violence offense in Utah; or

137 (b) an offense in any other state, or in any district, possession, or territory of the United  
138 States, that would be a domestic violence offense under Utah law.

139 (2) For purposes of this section and Section [77-36-1.1](#), a plea of guilty or no contest to  
140 any domestic violence offense in Utah, which plea is held in abeyance under Title 77, Chapter  
141 2a, Pleas in Abeyance, is the equivalent of a conviction, even if the charge has been

142 subsequently reduced or dismissed in accordance with the plea in abeyance agreement.

143 (3) (a) Before agreeing to a plea of guilty or no contest or to filing an information, the  
144 prosecutor shall examine the criminal history of the defendant.

145 (b) The court may not accept a plea of guilty or no contest to a domestic violence  
146 offense, unless:

147 (i) the prosecutor agrees to the plea:

148 (A) in open court;

149 (B) in writing; or

150 (C) by another means of communication that the court finds adequate to record the  
151 prosecutor's agreement; or

152 (ii) (A) the domestic violence offense is filed by information;

153 (B) the court receives a copy of the defendant's criminal history; and

154 (C) the criminal history contains no record of a conviction or a pending charge of a  
155 qualifying domestic violence offense within five years before the date on which the plea is  
156 entered.

157 (c) A plea of guilty or no contest is not made invalid by the failure of a court, a  
158 prosecutor, or a law enforcement agency to comply with this section.