

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 2857

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality of certain records of and communications with a domestic relations office.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 203, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 203.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 203.008. CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS AND PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS. (a) All files and records of a service provided under this chapter, including information concerning a custodial parent, a noncustodial parent, a child, or an alleged or presumed father, are confidential.

(b) All communications made by an applicant for or recipient of services under this chapter are privileged.

(c) A domestic relations office may release information to a public official to the same extent and in the same manner as the Title IV-D agency may release information to a public official.

(d) A domestic relations office may not release information on the physical location of a person if:

(1) a protective order has been entered under Title 4 with respect to the person; or

(2) there is reason to believe that the release of information may result in physical or emotional harm to the person.

(e) A domestic relations office may release information to any person for a purpose not prohibited by federal law to the same

1 extent and in the same manner as the Title IV-D agency may release
2 information to a person for the same purpose.

3 (f) To the extent of any conflict between Section 203.007(h)
4 and this section, Section 203.007(h) prevails.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
6 applies to files and records in the possession of and
7 communications made to a domestic relations office before, on, or
8 after that date.