

AN ACT

relating to the time by which certain persons found to have engaged in family violence must complete court-ordered counseling.

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

SECTION 1. Section 85.024(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person found to have engaged in family violence who is ordered to attend a program or counseling under Section 85.022(a)(1) or (2) shall file with the court an affidavit before the 60th day after the date the order was rendered stating either that the person has begun the program or counseling or that a program or counseling is not available within a reasonable distance from the person's residence. A person who files an affidavit that the person has begun the program or counseling shall file with the court before the date the protective order expires a statement that the person completed the program or counseling not later than the 30th day before the expiration date of the protective order or the 30th day before the first anniversary of the date the protective order was issued, whichever date is earlier. An affidavit under this subsection must be accompanied by a letter, notice, or certificate from the program or counselor that verifies the person's completion of the program or counseling. A person who fails to comply with this subsection may be punished for contempt of court under Section 21.002, Government Code.

1 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
2 to a protective order rendered under Title 4, Family Code, on or
3 after the effective date of this Act. A protective order rendered
4 before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the
5 order was rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for
6 that purpose.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3593 was passed by the House on May 8, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3593 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor