

AN ACT

relating to the use of digitized signatures in certain family law proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 1, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 1.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.109. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized signature on an original petition under this title or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

(b) A digitized signature under this section may be applied only by, and must remain under the sole control of, the person whose signature is represented.

SECTION 2. Title 2, Family Code, is amended by adding Subtitle E to read as follows:

SUBTITLE E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 47. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 47.001. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized signature on an original petition or application under this title or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified

1 under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

2 (b) A digitized signature under this section may be applied  
3 only by, and must remain under the sole control of, the person whose  
4 signature is represented.

5 (c) In this section, "digitized signature" has the meaning  
6 assigned by Section 101.0096.

7 SECTION 3. Chapter 81, Family Code, is amended by adding  
8 Section 81.011 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 81.011. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized  
10 signature on an application for a protective order under this title  
11 or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title  
12 satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of  
13 signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified  
14 under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

15 (b) A digitized signature under this section may be applied  
16 only by, and must remain under the sole control of, the person whose  
17 signature is represented.

18 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
19 a proceeding that is commenced on or after the effective date of  
20 this Act. A proceeding that is commenced before that date is  
21 governed by the law in effect on the date the proceeding was  
22 commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
23 purpose.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 813 passed the Senate on May 8, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 813 passed the House on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor