

By: West

S.B. No. 1404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requirements for certain orders and judgments rendered in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

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

SECTION 1. Section 105.006, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-1), (c-2), and (i) and amending Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(c-1) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2), if a court renders an order under Subsection (c) prohibiting the disclosure of a party's information, the court shall require that the party provide to the court, for inclusion in the final order, an e-mail address at which the party may receive:

(1) notice and service of process of subsequent motions, petitions, or other legal pleadings using the electronic filing system established under Section 72.031, Government Code; and

(2) other legal documents or required notices.

(c-2) If the court finds that requiring a party to provide an e-mail address under Subsection (c-1) is likely to endanger the safety of the party, the court may not require the party to provide the e-mail address under that subsection.

(f) Except for an action in which contempt is sought, in any subsequent child support modification or enforcement action, the court may, on a showing that diligent effort has been made to

1 determine the location of a party, consider due process
2 requirements for notice and service of process to be met with
3 respect to that party on delivery of written notice to the most
4 recent residence address, e-mail address, or address of employment
5 filed by that party with the court and the state case registry.

6 (i) The clerk may send orders, notices, and other documents
7 relating to a final order to which this section applies to the
8 e-mail address provided by a party under this section using the
9 electronic filing system established under Section 72.031,
10 Government Code.

11 SECTION 2. Section 106.002, Family Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

13 (c) In rendering a judgment for attorney's fees or expenses
14 under this section, the court shall render the judgment separate
15 from any judgment confirming the amount of arrearages under Section
16 157.263.

17 SECTION 3. Section 157.167, Family Code, is amended by
18 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

19 (a-1) In rendering a judgment for attorney's fees and court
20 costs under Subsection (a), the court shall render the judgment
21 separate from any judgment confirming the amount of arrearages
22 under Section 157.263.

23 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
24 suit affecting the parent-child relationship that is pending in a
25 trial court on the effective date of this Act or that is filed on or
26 after the effective date of this Act.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.