

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1179 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, AUMENT, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, COLLETT AND
KANE, APRIL 1, 2022

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, APRIL 1, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in domestic and sexual violence victim
3 address confidentiality, further providing for definitions,
4 for persons eligible to apply and for application and
5 certification process.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 6702 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:

10 § 6702. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
12 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 * * *

15 "Victim of child abduction." A victim of an offense that is:

16 (1) enumerated in 18 Pa.C.S. § 2904 (relating to
17 interference with custody of children); and

18 (2) graded as a felony.

19 * * *

1 "Victim of human trafficking." A victim of an offense
2 enumerated in either 18 Pa.C.S. § 3011 (relating to trafficking
3 in individuals) or 3012 (relating to involuntary servitude).

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Section 6704 of Title 23 is amended by adding
6 paragraphs to read:

7 § 6704. Persons eligible to apply.

8 The following persons shall be eligible to apply to become
9 program participants:

10 * * *

11 (6) A victim of child abduction who files an affidavit
12 with the Office of Victim Advocate describing the
13 perpetrator's course of conduct or repeated actions toward
14 the affiant meeting the criteria enumerated in 18 Pa.C.S. §
15 2904 (relating to interference with custody of children) that
16 is graded as a felony and further stating that the affiant
17 fears future violent acts by the perpetrator of the child
18 abduction.

19 (7) A victim of human trafficking who files an affidavit
20 with the Office of Victim Advocate describing the
21 perpetrator's course of conduct or repeated actions toward
22 the affiant meeting the criteria enumerated in either 18
23 Pa.C.S. § 3011 (relating to trafficking in individuals) or
24 3012 (relating to involuntary servitude) and further stating
25 that the affiant fears future violent acts by the perpetrator
26 of the human trafficking.

27 Section 3. Section 6705(a) of Title 23 is amended to read:
28 § 6705. Application and certification process.

29 (a) General rule.--A person must file an application with
30 the Office of Victim Advocate on a form prescribed by the Office

1 of Victim Advocate. An application and any supporting
2 documentation may be filed electronically, by mail or in person.
3 The Office of Victim Advocate shall certify eligible applicants
4 as program participants in accordance with the procedures
5 outlined in subsection (b). Certification shall be valid for a
6 period of three years following the date of certification unless
7 the certification is withdrawn or canceled before the expiration
8 of that period.

9 * * *

10 Section 4. The Office of Victim Advocate may promulgate
11 regulations to effectuate the following:

12 (1) The addition of the definitions of "victim of child
13 abduction" and "victim of human trafficking" in 23 Pa.C.S. §
14 6702.

15 (2) The amendment or addition of 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6704(6)
16 and (7) and 6705(a).

17 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.