

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 39, *approved June 20, 1996*
Senate Committee Substitute for
Senate Nos. 453 and 455

1 AN ACT concerning stalking, amending P.L.1992, c.209 and
2 N.J.S.2C:44-6 and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 1. a. As used in this act:

11 (1) "Course of conduct" means [a knowing and willful course of
12 conduct directed at a specific person, composed of a series of acts
13 over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of
14 purpose which alarms or annoys that person and which serves no
15 legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as to cause
16 a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress. Constitutionally
17 protected activity is not included within the meaning of "course of
18 conduct"] repeatedly maintaining a visual or physical proximity to a
19 person or repeatedly conveying verbal or written threats or threats
20 implied by conduct or a combination thereof directed at or toward a
21 person.

22 (2) ["Credible threat" means an explicit or implicit threat made
23 with the intent and the apparent ability to carry out the threat, so as to
24 cause the person who is the target of the threat to reasonably fear for
25 that person's safety] "Repeatedly" means on two or more occasions.

26 (3) "Immediate family" means a spouse, parent, child, sibling or
27 any other person who regularly resides in the household or who within
28 the prior six months regularly resided in the household.

29 b. A person is guilty of stalking, a crime of the fourth degree, if he
30 [purposfully and repeatedly follows another person and engages in a
31 course of conduct or makes a credible threat with the intent of
32 annoying or placing that person in reasonable fear of death or bodily
33 injury]:

34 (1) Purposfully engages in a course of conduct directed at a
35 specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily
36 injury to himself or a member of his immediate family or to fear the
37 death of himself or a member of his immediate family; and

38 (2) Knowingly, recklessly or negligently places the specific person
39 in reasonable fear of bodily injury to himself or a member of his
40 immediate family or in reasonable fear of the death of himself or a

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 member of his immediate family.

2 c. A person is guilty of a crime of the third degree if he commits
3 the crime of stalking in violation of an existing court order prohibiting
4 the behavior.

5 d. A person who commits a second or subsequent offense of
6 stalking [which involves an act of violence or a credible threat of
7 violence] against the same victim is guilty of a crime of the third
8 degree.

9 e. This act shall not apply to conduct which occurs during
10 organized group picketing.
11 (cf: P.L.1992, c.209, s.1)

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13 2. N.J.S.2C:44-6 is amended to read as follows:

14 2C:44-6. Procedure on Sentence; Presentence Investigation and
15 Report.

16 a. The court shall not impose sentence without first ordering a
17 presentence investigation of the defendant and according due
18 consideration to a written report of such investigation when required
19 by Rules of Court. The court may order a presentence investigation
20 in any other case.

21 b. The presentence investigation shall include an analysis of the
22 circumstances attending the commission of the offense, the defendant's
23 history of delinquency or criminality, family situation, financial
24 resources, including whether or not the defendant is an enrollee or
25 covered person under a health insurance contract, policy or plan,
26 debts, including any amount owed for a fine, assessment or restitution
27 ordered in accordance to the provisions of Title 2C, employment
28 history, personal habits, the disposition of any charge made against any
29 codefendants and may include a report on his physical and mental
30 condition and any other matters that the probation officer deems
31 relevant or the court directs to be included. In any case involving a
32 conviction of N.J.S.2C:24-4, endangering the welfare of a child;
33 N.J.S.2C:18-3, criminal trespass, where the trespass was committed
34 in a school building or on school property; section 1 of P.L.1993,
35 c.291 (C.2C:13-6), attempting to lure or entice a child with purpose
36 to commit a criminal offense; [section 1 of P.L. 1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-
37 16), stalking;] or N.J.S.2C:13-1, kidnapping, where the victim of the
38 offense is a child under the age of 18, the investigation shall include a
39 report on the defendant's mental condition unless the court directs
40 otherwise. In any case involving a conviction of stalking, the
41 investigation shall include a report on the defendant's mental condition.

42 The presentence report shall also include a report on any compensation
43 paid by the Violent Crimes Compensation Board as a result of the
44 commission of the offense and, in any case where the victim chooses
45 to provide one, a statement by the victim of the offense for which the

1 defendant is being sentenced. The statement may include the nature
2 and extent of any physical harm or psychological or emotional harm or
3 trauma suffered by the victim, the extent of any loss to include loss of
4 earnings or ability to work suffered by the victim and the effect of the
5 crime upon the victim's family. The probation department shall notify
6 the victim or nearest relative of a homicide victim of his right to make
7 a statement for inclusion in the presentence report if the victim or
8 relative so desires. Any such statement shall be made within 20 days
9 of notification by the probation department.

10 The presentence report shall specifically include an assessment of
11 the gravity and seriousness of harm inflicted on the victim, including
12 whether or not the defendant knew or reasonably should have known
13 that the victim of the offense was particularly vulnerable or incapable
14 of resistance due to advanced age, disability, ill-health, or extreme
15 youth, or was for any other reason substantially incapable of exercising
16 normal physical or mental power of resistance.

17 c. If, after the presentence investigation, the court desires
18 additional information concerning an offender convicted of an offense
19 before imposing sentence, it may order that he be examined as to his
20 medical or mental condition, except that he may not be committed to
21 an institution for such examination.

22 d. Disclosure of any presentence investigation report or
23 psychiatric examination report shall be in accordance with law and the
24 Rules of Court, except that information concerning the defendant's
25 financial resources shall be made available upon request to the Violent
26 Crimes Compensation Board or to any officer authorized under the
27 provisions of section 3 of P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:46-4) to collect
28 payment on an assessment, restitution or fine and that information
29 concerning the defendant's coverage under any health insurance
30 contract, policy or plan shall be made available, as appropriate to the
31 Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and to the chief
32 administrative officer of a county jail in accordance with the provisions
33 of P.L.1995, c.254, (C.30:7E-1 et. al.).

34 e. The court shall not impose a sentence of imprisonment for an
35 extended term unless the ground therefor has been established at a
36 hearing after the conviction of the defendant and on written notice to
37 him of the ground proposed. The defendant shall have the right to
38 hear and controvert the evidence against him and to offer evidence
39 upon the issue.

40 (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1986, c.85).

41 (cf: P.L.1995, c.254, s.7)

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43 3. (New section) a. A judgment of conviction for stalking shall
44 operate as an application for a permanent restraining order limiting the
45 contact of the defendant and the victim who was stalked.

1 b. A hearing shall be held on the application for a permanent
2 restraining order at the time of the verdict or plea of guilty unless the
3 victim requests otherwise. This hearing shall be in Superior Court. A
4 permanent restraining order may grant the following specific relief:

5 (1) An order restraining the defendant from entering the residence,
6 property, school, or place of employment of the victim and requiring
7 the defendant to stay away from any specified place that is named in
8 the order and is frequented regularly by the victim.

9 (2) An order restraining the defendant from making contact with
10 the victim, including an order forbidding the defendant from personally
11 or through an agent initiating any communication likely to cause
12 annoyance or alarm including, but not limited to, personal, written, or
13 telephone contact with the victim, the victim's employers, employees,
14 or fellow workers, or others with whom communication would be
15 likely to cause annoyance or alarm to the victim.

16 c. The permanent restraining order entered by the court
17 subsequent to a conviction for stalking as provided in this act may be
18 dissolved upon the application of the stalking victim to the court which
19 granted the order.

20 d. Notice of permanent restraining orders issued pursuant to this
21 act shall be sent by the clerk of the court or other person designated
22 by the court to the appropriate chiefs of police, members of the State
23 Police and any other appropriate law enforcement agency or court.

24 e. Any permanent restraining order issued pursuant to this act
25 shall be in effect throughout the State, and shall be enforced by all law
26 enforcement officers.

27 f. A violation by the defendant of an order issued pursuant to this
28 act shall constitute an offense under subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:29-9
29 and each order shall so state. Violations of these orders may be
30 enforced in a civil or criminal action initiated by the stalking victim or
31 by the court, on its own motion, pursuant to applicable court rules.
32 Nothing in this act shall preclude the filing of a criminal complaint for
33 stalking based on the same act which is the basis for the violation of
34 the permanent restraining order.

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36 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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41 Revises New Jersey's anti-stalking statute.