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**HOUSE BILL 738: FAMILY LAW - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE -
RELIEF**

By Holly A. Currier

House Bill 738 provides additional protection to those persons eligible for relief from abuse (PEFR), who are filing a petition for a temporary ex parte order or a protection order. Specifically, the Bill now authorizes the judge to provide additional protection for the children of such PEFR's and to order the respondent to stay away from the children while they are in the care of a child care provider. In addition, the law provides protection for the child care provider while the children are under their supervision. Traditionally, children have been given protection from the abusers of the victim while they are in school or at home. With many PEFR's working outside of the home, child care is a necessity for both school aged and younger children. When a PEFR has filed for a temporary ex parte order or a protective order, the risk to the safety of both the PEFR and the children of the PEFR is increased. Respondents in such petition for relief may seek to appear at the place of child care and further threaten the victim and the children.

Thus, this Bill not only extends additional protection to some of the youngest and innocent victims of domestic violence while they are outside the home, but provides some additional sense of security to those PEFR's who must work and place their children in child care.

This Bill took effect on October 1, 1999.