

~~end-all-the-provisions--of--this--Act--are--declared--to--be severable.~~

SUBTITLE 5. PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

4-501.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "ABUSE" MEANS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTS BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

(1) TO CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY HARM;

(2) TO PLACE ANOTHER IN FEAR OF IMMINENT SERIOUS BODILY HARM; OR

(3) TO SEXUALLY ABUSE A CHILD, AS DEFINED BY ARTICLE 27, § 35A(B)8.

(C) "COURT" MEANS THE DISTRICT COURT OR A CIRCUIT COURT IN THIS STATE.

(D) "FAMILY HOME" IS THE PROPERTY IN THIS STATE THAT:

(1) IS THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE OF THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS; AND

(2) AT THE TIME OF THE PROCEEDING IS OWNED, RENTED, OR LEASED BY AT LEAST ONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

(E) "HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS" MEANS SPOUSES, PARENTS, OR MINOR CHILDREN WHO RESIDED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ACT OF ABUSE.

4-502.

(A) A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER MAY SEEK RELIEF BY FILING A PETITION WITH THE COURT ALLEGING ABUSE BY ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.

(B) THE PETITION SHALL BE UNDER OATH AND SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION KNOWN TO THE PETITIONER OF ANY PRIOR OR PENDING ACTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN ANY COURT.

(C) (1) THE COST OF FILING THE PETITION MAY BE WAIVED OR DEFERRED BY THE COURT IN ADVANCE ON A SHOWING BY AFFIDAVIT THAT THE PETITIONER IS:

(I) INDIGENT; OR

(II) THAT BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE PETITIONER OTHERWISE ABLE TO PAY, IS UNABLE TO PAY THE COST AT THE TIME OF FILING.

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