



An Act protecting survivors of domestic abuse from abusive litigation

HD.3645

Sponsored by Representative Natalie M. Blais

What is abusive litigation?

"Stalking by way of the courts"

Using the court system to exert power and control over a victim.

"Paper" or "Separation" Abuse

"Vexatious" litigation

Tactics of abusive litigation include taking the survivor – even their friends and family – to court again and again. Through abusive litigation, the person causing harm seeks to control, harass, intimidate, coerce, and impoverish the survivor.

How does HD.3645 protect survivors?

- A court can recognize and respond to abusive litigation when it finds that a party has committed abuse or harassment by granting survivors an Order Restricting Abusive Litigation.
- If there is evidence that a party is engaging in abusive litigation, the litigation shall be dismissed, denied, stricken, or otherwise resolved and the abusing party is responsible for the attorneys' fees and costs of responding to the abusive litigation.
- Constitutional rights are protected by allowing a person subject to an Order Restricting Abusive litigation to seek pre-approval to file a motion or initiate a new case from the judge who imposed the pre-filing restriction

supported by



Jane Doe Inc.
The Massachusetts Coalition
Against Sexual Assault and
Domestic Violence



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