

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/25/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1707

5 By: Representatives Ballinger, *C. Douglas*
6 By: Senator *B. King*
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE AND
10 REPORTING DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN ACT OF
11 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; TO BE REFERRED TO AS "LAURA'S
12 LAW"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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15 **Subtitle**

16 CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE AND
17 REPORTING DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN
18 ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; TO BE REFERRED
19 TO AS "LAURA'S LAW".
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 12, Subchapter 1, is
25 amended to add a new section to read as follows:

26 12-12-108. Domestic violence investigation.

27 (a) When a law enforcement agency responds to a report of domestic
28 violence, the first law enforcement officer to interview a victim of domestic
29 violence shall assess the potential for danger by asking a series of
30 questions provided on a lethality assessment form.

31 (b) The lethality assessment form shall be completed with the
32 following information from the victim:

33 (1) Whether the offender ever used a weapon against the victim
34 or threatened the victim with a weapon;

35 (2) Whether the offender threatened to kill the victim or
36 victim's children;



1 (3) Whether the victim believes the offender will try to kill
2 him or her;

3 (4) Whether the offender ever tried to choke the victim;

4 (5) Whether the offender is violently or constantly jealous;

5 (6) Whether the offender controls most of the victim's daily
6 activities;

7 (7) The victim's current living situation and if he or she has
8 recently left or separated from the offender after living together or being
9 married;

10 (8) The victim's employment status;

11 (9) Whether the offender has ever attempted suicide to the best
12 of the victim's knowledge;

13 (10) Whether the victim has a child that the offender believes
14 is not the offender's biological child;

15 (11) Whether the offender follows, spies on, or leaves
16 threatening messages for the victim; and

17 (12) Any other pertinent information, including any other
18 conditions or circumstances that concern the victim regarding his or her
19 safety.

20 (c) Based on the results of the lethality assessment under this
21 section, the law enforcement officer compiling the information required by
22 this section from the victim may refer the victim to an available shelter or
23 domestic violence intervention program and shall comply with § 16-90-1107.

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25 */s/Ballinger*
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28 **APPROVED: 04/01/2015**
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