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**Act No. 48 (H. 45). An act relating to abusive litigation filed against survivors of domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault**

**Subjects: Domestic relations; abuse prevention; abusive litigation**

This act creates a new subchapter within Vermont's domestic abuse prevention chapter to establish a procedure to allow survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to request a court to issue an order restricting the abuser's ability to file new litigation against the survivor if a court has found that the abuser has filed litigation primarily for the purpose of abusing, harassing, intimidating, threatening, or maintaining contact with the survivor.

Once an order is issued, the abuser must request permission from the court to file any new action against the survivor. The abuser would only be able to proceed with new litigation if the court determines that the new litigation is being initiated, advanced, or continued primarily for the purpose of abusing, harassing, intimidating, threatening, or maintaining contact with the survivor.

Effective Date: September 1, 2023