

STATE OF NEW YORK

5559

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 16, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring a defendant who causes the death of a person with children due to driving while intoxicated or impaired to pay for child support

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Tsakos' Law".
2 § 2. Subdivision 5 and 11 of section 621 of the executive law, subdivision
3 5 as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2018 and subdivision
4 11 as amended by chapter 178 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as
5 follows:
6 5. "Victim" shall mean (a) a person who suffers personal physical
7 injury as a direct result of a crime; (b) a person who is the victim of
8 either the crime of (1) unlawful imprisonment in the first degree as
9 defined in section 135.10 of the penal law, (2) kidnapping in the second
10 degree as defined in section 135.20 of the penal law, (3) kidnapping in
11 the first degree as defined in section 135.25 of the penal law, (4)
12 menacing in the first degree as defined in section 120.13 of the penal
13 law, (5) criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation as
14 defined in section 121.11 of the penal law, (6) harassment in the second
15 degree as defined in section 240.26 of the penal law, (7) harassment in
16 the first degree as defined in section 240.25 of the penal law, (8)
17 aggravated harassment in the second degree as defined in subdivision
18 three or five of section 240.30 of the penal law, (9) aggravated harassment
19 in the first degree as defined in subdivision two of section 240.31
20 of the penal law, (10) criminal contempt in the first degree as defined
21 in subdivision (b) or subdivision (c) of section 215.51 of the penal
22 law, (11) stalking in the fourth, third, second or first degree as
23 defined in sections 120.45, 120.50, 120.55 and 120.60 of the penal law,
24 (12) labor trafficking as defined in section 135.35 of the penal law,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD06516-01-3

1 (13) sex trafficking as defined in section 230.34 of the penal law; or
2 (14) sex trafficking of a child as defined in section 230.34-a of the
3 penal law; a vulnerable elderly person or an incompetent or physically
4 disabled person as defined in section 260.31 of the penal law who incurs
5 a loss of savings as defined in subdivision twenty-four of this section;
6 or a person who has had a frivolous lawsuit filed against them; (c) a
7 child victim of a person or persons who died as a direct result of
8 either the crime of (1) vehicular manslaughter in the second degree as
9 defined in section 125.12 of the penal law, (2) vehicular manslaughter
10 in the first degree as defined in section 125.13 of the penal law, or
11 (3) aggravated vehicular homicide as defined in section 125.14 of the
12 penal law.

13 11. For purposes of this article "child victim" shall mean a person
14 less than eighteen years of age who suffers physical, mental or
15 emotional injury, or loss or damage, as a direct result of a crime or
16 any violation listed in subdivision twelve of section six hundred thir-
17 ty-one of this article, or as a result of witnessing a crime or any
18 violation listed in subdivision twelve of section six hundred thirty-one
19 of this article, or a child of a victim of a crime listed in paragraph
20 (c) of subdivision five of this section.

21 § 3. Subdivision 2 of section 631 of the executive law, as amended by
22 chapter 233 of the laws of 2020, is amended and a new subdivision 19 is
23 added to read as follows:

24 2. Any award made pursuant to this article shall be in an amount not
25 exceeding out-of-pocket expenses, including indebtedness reasonably
26 incurred for medical or other services necessary as a result of the
27 injury upon which the claim is based; loss of earnings or support
28 resulting from such injury not to exceed thirty thousand dollars; loss
29 of savings not to exceed thirty thousand dollars; burial expenses not
30 exceeding six thousand dollars of a victim who died on or after November
31 first, nineteen ninety-six as a direct result of a crime; the costs of
32 crime scene cleanup and securing of a crime scene not exceeding twenty-
33 five hundred dollars; reasonable relocation expenses not exceeding twen-
34 ty-five hundred dollars; reasonable employment-related transportation
35 expenses, not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars [~~and~~]; the unreim-
36 bursed cost of repair or replacement of articles of essential personal
37 property lost, damaged or destroyed as a direct result of the crime; and
38 child support for a child victim pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivi-
39 sion five of section six hundred twenty-one of this article until such
40 child reaches the age of eighteen. An award for loss of earnings shall
41 include earnings lost by a parent or guardian as a result of the hospi-
42 talization of a child victim under age eighteen for injuries sustained
43 as a direct result of a crime. In addition to the medical or other
44 services necessary as a result of the injury upon which the claim is
45 based, an award may be made for rehabilitative occupational training for
46 the purpose of job retraining or similar employment-oriented rehabilita-
47 tive services based upon the claimant's medical and employment history.
48 For the purpose of this subdivision, rehabilitative occupational train-
49 ing shall include but not be limited to educational training and
50 expenses. An award for rehabilitative occupational training may be made
51 to a victim, or to a family member of a victim where necessary as a
52 direct result of a crime. An award for employment-related transporta-
53 tion expenses shall be limited to the time period necessary due to the
54 personal physical injuries sustained as a direct result of the crime
55 upon which the claim is based, as determined by the medical information
56 collected during the investigation of the claim.

1 19. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of this article, where
2 a child victim has lost a parent or parents as a result of a crime list-
3 ed in paragraph (c) of subdivision five of section six hundred twenty-
4 one of this article the claimant shall be eligible of an award of child
5 support which shall be paid monthly to the child victim's other parent
6 or legal guardian until such child victim reaches the age of eighteen.
7 Such award of child support shall be determined by the office after
8 taking into consideration the claimant's financial resources.

9 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 632 of the executive law, as amended by
10 chapter 287 of the laws of 1972, is amended to read as follows:

11 1. The award shall be paid in a lump sum, except that in the case of
12 death or protracted disability the award shall provide for periodic
13 payments to compensate for loss of earnings or support; or in the case
14 of a child victim pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision five of
15 section six hundred twenty-one of this article the award of child
16 support shall be paid monthly until such child victim reaches the age of
17 eighteen. No award made pursuant to this article shall be subject to
18 execution or attachment other than for expenses resulting from the inju-
19 ry which is the basis for the claim.

20 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.