STATE OF NEW YORK

2451

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ, EACHUS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to factoring domestic violence convictions into family court decisions regarding visitation, custody and parental rights

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (vii) and (viii) of subdivision (a) of section 1046 of the family court act, paragraph (vii) as amended by chapter 432 of the laws of 1993, paragraph (viii) as added by chapter 1015 of the laws of 1972, are amended and a new paragraph (ix) is added to read as follows:

(vii) neither the privilege attaching to confidential communications between [~~husband and wife~~] **spouses**, as set forth in section forty-five hundred two of the civil practice law and rules, nor the physician-patient and related privileges, as set forth in section forty-five hundred four of the civil practice law and rules, nor the psychologist-client privilege, as set forth in section forty-five hundred seven of the civil practice law and rules, nor the social worker-client privilege, as set forth in section forty-five hundred eight of the civil practice law and rules, nor the rape crisis counselor **or domestic violence advocate**-client privilege, as set forth in section forty-five hundred ten of the civil practice law and rules, shall be a ground for excluding evidence which otherwise would be admissible[~~.~~]**; and**

(viii) proof of the "impairment of emotional health" or "impairment of mental or emotional condition" as a result of the unwillingness or inability of the respondent to exercise a minimum degree of care toward a child may include competent opinion or expert testimony and may include proof that such impairment lessened during a period when the child was in the care, custody or supervision of a person or agency other than the respondent[~~.~~]**; and**

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

LBD06200-01-5

(ix) previous convictions of disorderly conduct, harassment in the first degree, harassment in the second degree, aggravated harassment in the second degree, sexual misconduct forcible touching, sexual abuse in the third degree, sexual abuse in the second degree as set forth in subdivision one of section 130.60 of the penal law, stalking in the first degree, stalking in the second degree, stalking in the third degree, stalking in the fourth degree, criminal mischief, menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree, reckless endangerment, strangulation in the first degree, strangulation in the second degree, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, an attempted assault, coercion in the third degree as set forth in subdivisions one, two and three of section 135.60 of the penal law between spouses or former spouses, or between parent and child or between members of the same family or household except that if the respondent would not be criminally responsible by reason of age pursuant to section 30.00 of the penal law, shall be taken into consideration for any hearing deciding on the visitation, custody, or rights of a parent with mandatory, batterer specific rehabilitative measures of no less than twelve months, successfully completed by the respondent prior to a final judgment; provided, however, that any parent undergoing mandatory batterer specific rehabilitation measures shall only be granted supervised visitation.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.