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AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law and the family court act, in relation to establishing "Kyra's Law"

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

- 1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
- 2 "Kyra's Law".
- 3 § 2. Legislative intent. The legislature recognizes that the safety of
- 4 children is of paramount importance and is an integral element of their
- 5 best interests. To that end, the legislature finds that judicial deci-

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

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1 sions regarding custody of, and access to, children shall promote the
2 safety of children as a threshold issue.

3 § 3. Paragraphs (a) and (a-1) of subdivision 1 of section 240 of the
4 domestic relations law, paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 567 of the
5 laws of 2015 and paragraph (a-1) as amended by chapter 295 of the laws
6 of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

7 (a) In any action or proceeding brought (1) to annul a marriage or to
8 declare the nullity of a void marriage, or (2) for a separation, or (3)
9 for a divorce, or (4) to obtain, by a writ of habeas corpus or by peti-
10 tion and order to show cause, the custody of or right to visitation with
11 any child of a marriage, the court shall require verification of the
12 status of any child of the marriage with respect to such child's custody
13 and support, including any prior orders, and shall enter orders for
14 custody and support as, in the court's discretion, justice requires,
15 having regard to the circumstances of the case and of the respective
16 parties and to the best interests of the child and subject to the
17 provisions of subdivision one-c of this section. When the parties first

18 appear in court, the court shall advise the parties before proceeding of
19 the right to be represented by counsel of their own choosing, of the
20 right to an adjournment of such length as determined by the court to be
21 necessary to confer with counsel, and the right to seek counsel fees and
22 expenses, pursuant to section two hundred thirty-seven of this article.
23 Pursuant to statute, the court may assign counsel to the eligible
24 parties and to children, including when the assignment of counsel to a
25 child will serve the purposes of the family court act. Where either

26 party to an action concerning custody of or a right to visitation with a
27 child alleges in a sworn petition or complaint or sworn answer, cross-
28 petition, counterclaim or other sworn responsive pleading that the other
29 party has committed an act of domestic violence against the party making
30 the allegation or a family or household member of either party, as such
31 family or household member is defined in article eight of the family
32 court act, and such allegations are proven by a preponderance of the
33 evidence, the court [~~must~~] shall consider the effect of such domestic
34 violence upon the best interests of the child, together with such other
35 facts and circumstances as the court deems relevant in making a direc-
36 tion pursuant to this section and state on the record how such findings,
37 facts and circumstances factored into the direction. If a parent makes a
38 good faith allegation based on a reasonable belief supported by facts
39 that the child is the victim of child abuse, child neglect, or the
40 effects of domestic violence, and if that parent acts lawfully and in
41 good faith in response to that reasonable belief to protect the child or
42 seek treatment for the child, then that parent shall not be deprived of
43 custody, visitation or contact with the child, or restricted in custody,
44 visitation or contact, based solely on that belief or the reasonable
45 actions taken based on that belief. If an allegation that a child is
46 abused is supported by a preponderance of the evidence, then the court
47 shall consider such evidence of abuse in determining the visitation
48 arrangement that is in the best interest of the child, and the court
49 shall not place a child in the custody of a parent who presents a
50 substantial risk of harm to that child, and shall state on the record
51 how such findings were factored into the determination. Where a proceed-
52 ing filed pursuant to article ten or ten-A of the family court act is
53 pending at the same time as a proceeding brought in the supreme court
54 involving the custody of, or right to visitation with, any child of a
55 marriage, the court presiding over the proceeding under article ten or
56 ten-A of the family court act may jointly hear the dispositional hearing

1 on the petition under article ten or the permanency hearing under arti-
2 cle ten-A of the family court act and, upon referral from the supreme
3 court, the hearing to resolve the matter of custody or visitation in the
4 proceeding pending in the supreme court; provided however, the court
5 [~~must~~] shall determine custody or visitation in accordance with the
6 terms of this section.

7 An order directing the payment of child support shall contain the
8 social security numbers of the named parties. In all cases there shall
9 be no prima facie right to the custody of the child in either parent.
10 Such direction shall make provision for child support out of the proper-
11 ty of either or both parents. The court shall make its award for child
12 support pursuant to subdivision one-b of this section. Such direction
13 may provide for reasonable visitation rights to the [~~maternal—and/or~~
14 ~~paternal~~] grandparents of any child of the parties. Such direction as it
15 applies to rights of visitation with a child remanded or placed in the
16 care of a person, official, agency or institution pursuant to article
17 ten of the family court act, or pursuant to an instrument approved under
18 section three hundred fifty-eight-a of the social services law, shall be
19 enforceable pursuant to part eight of article ten of the family court
20 act and sections three hundred fifty-eight-a and three hundred eighty-
21 four-a of the social services law and other applicable provisions of law
22 against any person having care and custody, or temporary care and custo-
23 dy, of the child. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any writ-
24 ten application or motion to the court for the establishment, modifica-
25 tion or enforcement of a child support obligation for persons not in
26 receipt of public assistance and care [~~must~~] shall contain either a
27 request for child support enforcement services which would authorize the
28 collection of the support obligation by the immediate issuance of an
29 income execution for support enforcement as provided for by this chap-
30 ter, completed in the manner specified in section one hundred eleven-g
31 of the social services law; or a statement that the applicant has
32 applied for or is in receipt of such services; or a statement that the
33 applicant knows of the availability of such services, has declined them
34 at this time and where support enforcement services pursuant to section
35 one hundred eleven-g of the social services law have been declined that
36 the applicant understands that an income deduction order may be issued
37 pursuant to subdivision (c) of section fifty-two hundred forty-two of
38 the civil practice law and rules without other child support enforcement
39 services and that payment of an administrative fee may be required. The
40 court shall provide a copy of any such request for child support
41 enforcement services to the support collection unit of the appropriate
42 social services district any time it directs payments to be made to such
43 support collection unit. Additionally, the copy of any such request
44 shall be accompanied by the name, address and social security number of
45 the parties; the date and place of the parties' marriage; the name and
46 date of birth of the child or children; and the name and address of the
47 employers and income payors of the party from whom child support is
48 sought or from the party ordered to pay child support to the other
49 party. Such direction may require the payment of a sum or sums of money
50 either directly to the custodial parent or to third persons for goods or
51 services furnished for such child, or for both payments to the custodial
52 parent and to such third persons; provided, however, that unless the
53 party seeking or receiving child support has applied for or is receiving
54 such services, the court shall not direct such payments to be made to
55 the support collection unit, as established in section one hundred
56 eleven-h of the social services law. Every order directing the payment

1 of support shall require that if either parent currently, or at any time
2 in the future, has health insurance benefits available that may be
3 extended or obtained to cover the child, such parent is required to
4 exercise the option of additional coverage in favor of such child and
5 execute and deliver to such person any forms, notices, documents or
6 instruments necessary to assure timely payment of any health insurance
7 claims for such child.

8 (a-1)(1) [~~Permanent and initial~~] Initial temporary orders of custody
9 or visitation. Prior to the issuance of any [~~permanent or~~] initial
10 temporary order of custody or visitation, the court shall conduct a
11 review of the decisions and reports listed in subparagraph [~~three~~] four
12 of this paragraph. In the event that either party has made facially
13 credible allegations of domestic violence, child abuse, or other acts
14 also posing a substantial risk of harm to the child, the nature of which
15 warrants the court's immediate attention, the court shall conduct a
16 review pursuant to subparagraph five of this paragraph.

17 (2) Successive temporary orders of custody or visitation. Prior to the
18 issuance of any successive temporary order of custody or visitation, the
19 court shall conduct a review of the decisions and reports listed in
20 subparagraph [~~three~~] four of this paragraph, unless such a review has
21 been conducted within ninety days prior to the issuance of such order.
22 In the event that either party has made facially credible allegations of
23 domestic violence, child abuse, or other acts also posing a substantial
24 risk of harm to the child, the nature of which warrants the court's
25 immediate attention, the court shall conduct a review pursuant to
26 subparagraph five of this paragraph, unless such a review has been
27 conducted within ninety days prior to the issuance of such order or the
28 court determines that such additional review is warranted.

29 (3) Final orders of custody or visitation. Prior to the issuance of
30 any final orders of custody or visitation, the court shall conduct a
31 review of the decisions and reports listed in subparagraph four of this
32 paragraph. In the event that either party has made facially credible
33 allegations of domestic violence, child abuse, or other acts also posing
34 a substantial risk of harm to the child, the nature of which warrants
35 the court's immediate attention, the court shall conduct a review pursu-
36 ant to subparagraph five of this paragraph.

37 (4) Decisions and reports for review. The court shall conduct a review
38 of the following:

39 (i) related decisions in court proceedings initiated pursuant to arti-
40 cle ten of the family court act, and all warrants issued under the fami-
41 ly court act; and

42 (ii) reports of the statewide computerized registry of orders of
43 protection established and maintained pursuant to section two hundred
44 twenty-one-a of the executive law, and reports of the sex offender
45 registry established and maintained pursuant to section one hundred
46 sixty-eight-b of the correction law.

47 [~~4~~] (5) Evidence to review. As applicable pursuant to subparagraph
48 one, two, or three of this paragraph, the court shall conduct a review
49 of competent, material and relevant evidence that is presented to the
50 court, on notice to the parties and the attorney for the child, if one
51 has been appointed, including the following; provided, however, that
52 with respect to temporary orders of custody or visitation, certification
53 or authentication of a law enforcement record or medical record shall
54 not be required for the record, or a portion thereof, to be admitted,
55 and that with respect to successive, temporary orders, certification or
56 authentication of a law enforcement record or medical record shall be

1 required for the record or a portion thereof to be admitted unless the
2 shortness of time or other significant obstacles have prevented the
3 proponent of the record from obtaining a certified or authenticated
4 record despite reasonable efforts to do so; and provided, further, that
5 notice to the parties and attorney for the child, if any, may be waived
6 in the case of an emergency ex parte application for relief:

7 (i) any party's history of domestic violence, child abuse, or other
8 acts also posing a substantial risk of harm to a child;

9 (ii) police reports, including domestic violence incident reports or
10 reporting of incidents involving child abuse or domestic violence by a
11 party;

12 (iii) child safety risk factor incidents committed or engaged in by
13 any party, including, but not limited to:

14 (A) an increase in frequency or severity of domestic violence;

15 (B) use or threats to use a weapon or dangerous instrument, or unlaw-
16 ful possession of firearms;

17 (C) threats to harm or kill the child, the other party, the other
18 party's children, self or others, or companion animals;

19 (D) sexual abuse or other sexual offenses against the child or the
20 other party;

21 (E) unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image, pursu-
22 ant to section 245.15 of the penal law;

23 (F) incidents involving obstruction of breathing or strangulation;

24 (G) a recent pattern of alcohol or substance abuse that threatens the
25 child's safety;

26 (H) incidents of violence during pregnancy;

27 (I) incidents of stalking or cyber stalking; and

28 (J) coercive control, which shall mean a pattern of behavior that
29 unreasonably restricts a party's safety or autonomy through means such
30 as isolation, intimidation, threats, financial control, monitoring, or
31 compelling compliance;

32 (iv) any rehabilitation by a party as a mitigating factor;

33 (v) the expressed preference of the child, giving due consideration to
34 the age and maturity of the child; and

35 (vi) any other evidence the court deems necessary for its determi-
36 nation.

37 (6) Conditions of custody or visitation.

38 (i) The court shall state in writing or on the record the consider-
39 ations it reviewed to set forth conditions of custody or visitation in a
40 temporary order of custody or visitation, and the basis therefor.

41 (ii) A determination that a party poses a substantial risk of harm to
42 the child, the nature of which warrants the court's immediate, attention
43 shall be a significant factor in determining a temporary order of
44 custody or visitation, including any limitations on or conditions on a
45 party's custody, visitation or contact with a child.

46 (iii) Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be deemed in any
47 way to limit, restrict, expand or impair the rights of any party to file
48 for or request a modification of a temporary order as is otherwise
49 provided by law.

50 (iv) The court shall state in writing or on the record the consider-
51 ations it reviewed to set forth conditions of custody or visitation in a
52 final order of custody or visitation, and the basis therefor.

53 (v) A finding by a preponderance of the evidence that a party poses a
54 substantial risk of harm to the child shall be a significant factor in
55 determining a final order of custody or visitation, including any limi-

1 tations on or conditions on a party's custody, visitation or contact
2 with a child.

3 (7) (i) In any proceeding for custody or visitation where a party
4 asserts facially credible allegations of domestic violence, child abuse,
5 or other acts that also pose a substantial risk of harm to the child,
6 the court shall not find that reasonable protective behaviors to safe-
7 guard the child which were engaged in by the party who has made such
8 allegations, standing alone, constitute failure to support the child's
9 relationship with the other party.

10 (ii) The court shall not presume that a child's reluctance to interact
11 with a party was caused by the other party, nor shall a party be given
12 custody for the sole purpose either of improving a relationship between
13 the child and such party or in an attempt to address the child's reluc-
14 tance to interact with such party. Where appropriate, however, the court
15 may enter an order directing one or more parties to refrain from dispar-
16 aging the other party or parties in the presence of the child or chil-
17 dren.

18 (iii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create an excep-
19 tion to section seven hundred fifty-three of the judiciary law, or any
20 other enforcement provision, such that a party may seek to enforce any
21 proper ruling of the court, unless stayed, concerning access to the
22 child or conditions of access to the child.

23 (8) Notifying counsel and issuing orders. Upon consideration of deci-
24 sions pursuant to article ten of the family court act, and registry
25 reports and notifying counsel involved in the proceeding, or in the
26 event of a self-represented party, notifying such party of the results
27 thereof, including any court appointed attorney for children, the court
28 may issue a temporary, successive temporary or final order of custody or
29 visitation.

30 [~~5~~] (9) Temporary emergency order. Notwithstanding any other
31 provision of the law, upon emergency situations, including computer
32 malfunctions, to serve the best interest of the child, the court may
33 issue a temporary emergency order for custody or visitation in the event
34 that it is not possible to timely review decisions and reports on regis-
35 tries as required pursuant to subparagraph [~~three~~] four of this para-
36 graph.

37 [~~6~~] (10) After issuing a temporary emergency order. After issuing a
38 temporary emergency order of custody or visitation, the court shall
39 conduct reviews of the decisions and reports on registries as required
40 pursuant to subparagraph [~~three~~] four of this paragraph within twenty-
41 four hours of the issuance of such temporary emergency order. Should
42 such twenty-four hour period fall on a day when court is not in session,
43 then the required reviews shall take place the next day the court is in
44 session. Upon reviewing decisions and reports the court shall notify
45 associated counsel, self-represented parties and attorneys for children
46 pursuant to subparagraph [~~four~~] eight of this paragraph and may issue
47 temporary or permanent custody or visitation orders.

48 [~~7~~] (11) Comprehensive training. The chief administrator of the
49 courts shall present or arrange access to comprehensive training on
50 topics necessary to conduct a review of allegations of domestic
51 violence, child abuse and other acts posing a substantial risk to a
52 child's safety, which shall be mandatory for judges, referees, and
53 other hearing officers presiding over child custody proceedings and
54 shall present or arrange training on such topics every two years there-
55 after.

1 (12) Feasibility study. The commissioner of the office of children and
2 family services, in conjunction with the office of court administration,
3 is hereby authorized and directed to examine, study, evaluate and make
4 recommendations concerning the feasibility of the utilization of comput-
5 ers in courts which are connected to the statewide central register of
6 child abuse and maltreatment established and maintained pursuant to
7 section four hundred twenty-two of the social services law, as a means
8 of providing courts with information regarding parties requesting orders
9 of custody or visitation. Such commissioner shall make a preliminary
10 report to the governor and the legislature of findings, conclusions and
11 recommendations not later than January first, two thousand nine, and a
12 final report of findings, conclusions and recommendations not later than
13 June first, two thousand nine, and shall submit with the reports such
14 legislative proposals as are deemed necessary to implement the commis-
15 sioner's recommendations.

16 § 4. Section 70 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter
17 457 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

18 § 70. Habeas corpus for child detained by parent. (a) (i) Where a
19 minor child is residing within this state, either parent may apply to
20 the supreme court for a writ of habeas corpus to have such minor child
21 brought before such court; and on the return thereof, the court, on due
22 consideration, may award the natural guardianship, charge and custody of
23 such child to either parent for such time, under such regulations and
24 restrictions, and with such provisions and directions, as the case may
25 require, and may at any time thereafter vacate or modify such order. In
26 all cases there shall be no prima facie right to the custody of the
27 child in either parent, but the court shall determine solely what is for
28 the best interest of the child, and what will best promote its welfare
29 and happiness, and make award accordingly. Prior to issuing any initial
30 or successive temporary order of custody or visitation or permanent
31 order of custody or visitation, the court shall conduct a review of the
32 decisions and reports listed in subparagraph four of paragraph (a-1) of
33 subdivision one of section two hundred forty of this chapter, unless
34 such a review has been conducted within ninety days prior to the issu-
35 ance of such order or the court determines that such additional review
36 is warranted.

37 (ii) When issuing any temporary order of custody or visitation, or
38 denying an application for a temporary order after evidence has been
39 presented to the court regarding allegations of domestic violence, child
40 abuse, or other acts also posing a substantial risk of harm to the
41 child, the nature of which warrants the court's immediate attention,
42 pursuant to subparagraph one of paragraph (a-1) of subdivision one of
43 section two hundred forty of this chapter the court shall state in writ-
44 ing or on the record the considerations it reviewed and the findings
45 supporting the decision to set forth any limitations or conditions
46 placed on a party's custody, visitation or contact with such child.

47 (iii) When issuing a final order of custody or visitation, or denying
48 an application for a temporary order after evidence has been presented
49 to the court regarding allegations of domestic violence, child abuse, or
50 other acts also posing a substantial risk of harm to the child, pursuant
51 to subparagraph three of paragraph (a-1) of subdivision one of section
52 two hundred forty of this chapter, the court shall state in writing or
53 on the record the considerations it reviewed and the findings supporting
54 the decision to set forth any limitations or conditions placed on a
55 party's custody, visitation or contact with such child.

1 (iv) Judges, referees and other hearing officers presiding over child
2 custody proceedings shall receive training in accordance with section
3 two hundred forty of this chapter.

4 (b) Any order under this section which applies to rights of visitation
5 with a child remanded or placed in the care of a person, official, agen-
6 cy or institution pursuant to article ten of the family court act or
7 pursuant to an instrument approved under section three hundred fifty-
8 eight-a of the social services law, shall be enforceable pursuant to the
9 provisions of part eight of article ten of such act, sections three
10 hundred fifty-eight-a and three hundred eighty-four-a of the social
11 services law and other applicable provisions of law against any person
12 or official having care and custody, or temporary care and custody, of
13 such child.

14 § 5. Subdivision (b) of section 651 of the family court act, as
15 amended by chapter 657 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 (b) (i) When initiated in the family court, the family court has
18 jurisdiction to determine, in accordance with subdivision one of section
19 two hundred forty of the domestic relations law and with the same powers
20 possessed by the supreme court in addition to its own powers, habeas
21 corpus proceedings and proceedings brought by petition and order to show
22 cause, for the determination of the custody or visitation of minors,
23 including applications by a grandparent or grandparents for visitation
24 or custody rights pursuant to section seventy-two or two hundred forty
25 of the domestic relations law.

26 (ii) The family court shall update its petition used by parties to
27 initiate child custody and visitation proceedings in a manner to permit
28 petitioners to specify allegations of child abuse, domestic violence or
29 other acts also posing a substantial risk of harm to the child, the
30 nature of which warrants the court's immediate attention.

31 § 6. Subdivision (e) of section 651 of the family court act, as
32 amended by chapter 295 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 (e) 1. [~~Permanent and initial~~] Initial temporary orders of custody or
35 visitation. Prior to the issuance of any [~~permanent or~~] initial tempo-
36 rary order of custody or visitation, the court shall conduct a review of
37 the decisions and reports listed in paragraph [~~three~~] four of this
38 subdivision. In the event that facially credible allegations of domestic
39 violence, child abuse or other acts also posing a substantial risk of
40 harm to the child, the nature of which warrants the court's immediate
41 attention, have been made by either party to an action concerning custo-
42 dy of or a right to visitation with a child against the other party,
43 pursuant to paragraph (a-1) of subdivision one of section two hundred
44 forty of the domestic relations law, the court shall conduct a review
45 pursuant to paragraph five of this subdivision. When the parties first
46 appear in court, the court shall advise the parties before proceeding of
47 the right to be represented by counsel of their own choosing, of the
48 right to have an adjournment of such length as determined by the court
49 to be necessary to confer with counsel, and the right to seek counsel
50 fees and expenses, pursuant to section two hundred thirty-seven of the
51 domestic relations law. Pursuant to statute, the court may assign coun-
52 sel to the eligible parties and to children, including when the assign-
53 ment of counsel to a child is appropriate to serve the purposes of this
54 act.

55 2. Successive temporary orders of custody or visitation. Prior to the
56 issuance of any successive temporary order of custody or visitation, the

1 court shall conduct a review of the decisions and reports listed in
2 paragraph [~~three~~] four of this subdivision, unless such a review has
3 been conducted within ninety days prior to the issuance of such order.
4 In the event that either party has made allegations of domestic
5 violence, child abuse, or other acts also posing a substantial risk of
6 harm to the child, the nature of which warrants the court's immediate
7 attention, the court shall conduct a review pursuant to paragraph five
8 of this subdivision, unless such a review has been conducted within
9 ninety days prior to the issuance of such order or the court determines
10 that such additional review is warranted.

11 3. Final orders of custody or visitation. Prior to the issuance of any
12 final orders of custody or visitation, the court shall conduct a review
13 of the decisions and reports listed in paragraph four of this paragraph.
14 In the event that either party has made facially credible allegations of
15 domestic violence, child abuse, or other acts also posing a substantial
16 risk of harm to the child, the nature of which warrants the court's
17 immediate attention, the court shall conduct a review pursuant to para-
18 graph five of this paragraph.

19 4. Decisions and reports for review. The court shall conduct a review
20 of the following:

21 (i) related decisions in court proceedings initiated pursuant to arti-
22 cle ten of this act, and all warrants issued under this act; and

23 (ii) reports of the statewide computerized registry of orders of
24 protection established and maintained pursuant to section two hundred
25 twenty-one-a of the executive law, and reports of the sex offender
26 registry established and maintained pursuant to section one hundred
27 sixty-eight-b of the correction law.

28 [~~(4)~~] 5. Evidence to review. As applicable pursuant to paragraph one,
29 two, or three of this subdivision, the court shall also conduct a review
30 of competent, material and relevant evidence that is presented to the
31 court on notice to the parties and the attorney for the child, if one
32 has been appointed, including the following; provided however, that with
33 respect to temporary, emergency orders of custody or visitation, certifi-
34 cation or authentication of a law enforcement record or medical
35 record shall not be required for the record, or portion thereof, to be
36 admitted, and that with respect to successive, temporary orders, certifi-
37 cation or authentication of a law enforcement record or medical record
38 shall be required for the record or a portion thereof to be admitted
39 unless the shortness of time or other significant obstacles have
40 prevented the proponent of the record from obtaining a certified or
41 authenticated record despite reasonable efforts to do so; and provided,
42 further, that notice to the parties and attorney for the child, if any,
43 may be waived in the case of an emergency, ex parte application for
44 relief:

45 (i) any party's history of domestic violence, child abuse or other
46 acts also posing a substantial risk of harm to a child;

47 (ii) police reports, including domestic violence incident reports, or
48 reports of incidents involving child abuse or domestic violence by a
49 party;

50 (iii) child safety risk factor incidents committed or engaged in by
51 any party, including but not limited to:

52 (A) an increase in frequency or severity of domestic violence;

53 (B) use or threats to use a weapon or dangerous instrument, or unlaw-
54 ful possession of firearms;

55 (C) threats to harm or kill the child, the other party, the other
56 party's children, self or others, or companion animals;

1 (D) sexual abuse or other sexual offenses against the child or other
2 party;

3 (E) unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image, pursu-
4 ant to section 245.15 of the penal law;

5 (F) incidents involving obstruction of breathing or strangulation;

6 (G) a recent pattern of alcohol or substance abuse that threatens the
7 child's safety;

8 (H) incidents of violence during pregnancy;

9 (I) incidents of stalking or cyber stalking; and

10 (J) coercive control, which shall mean a pattern of behavior that
11 unreasonably restricts a party's safety or autonomy through means such
12 as isolation, intimidation, threats, financial control, monitoring, or
13 compelling compliance;

14 (iv) any rehabilitation by a party as a mitigating factor;

15 (v) the expressed preference of the child, giving due consideration to
16 the age and maturity of the child; and

17 (vi) any other considerations the court deems necessary for its deter-
18 mination.

19 6. Notifying counsel and issuing orders. Upon consideration of deci-
20 sions pursuant to article ten of this act, and registry reports and
21 notifying counsel involved in the proceeding, or in the event of a self-
22 represented party, notifying such party of the results thereof, includ-
23 ing any court appointed attorney for children, the court may issue a
24 temporary, successive temporary or final order of custody or visitation.

25 [~~5-~~] 7. Temporary emergency order. Notwithstanding any other provision
26 of the law, upon emergency situations, including computer malfunctions,
27 to serve the best interest of the child, the court may issue a temporary
28 emergency order for custody or visitation in the event that it is not
29 possible to timely review decisions and reports on registries as
30 required pursuant to paragraph [~~three~~] four of this subdivision.

31 [~~6-~~] 8. After issuing a temporary emergency order. After issuing a
32 temporary emergency order of custody or visitation, the court shall
33 conduct reviews of the decisions and reports on registries as required
34 pursuant to paragraph [~~three~~] four of this subdivision within twenty-
35 four hours of the issuance of such temporary emergency order. Should
36 such twenty-four hour period fall on a day when court is not in session,
37 then the required reviews shall take place the next day the court is in
38 session. Upon reviewing decisions and reports the court shall notify
39 associated counsel, self-represented parties and attorneys for children
40 pursuant to paragraph [~~four~~] six of this subdivision and may issue
41 temporary or permanent custody or visitation orders.

42 [~~7-~~] 9. Feasibility study. The commissioner of the office of children
43 and family services, in conjunction with the office of court adminis-
44 tration, is hereby authorized and directed to examine, study, evaluate
45 and make recommendations concerning the feasibility of the utilization
46 of computers in family courts which are connected to the statewide
47 central register of child abuse and maltreatment established and main-
48 tained pursuant to section four hundred twenty-two of the social
49 services law, as a means of providing family courts with information
50 regarding parties requesting orders of custody or visitation. Such
51 commissioner shall make a preliminary report to the governor and the
52 legislature of findings, conclusions and recommendations not later than
53 January thirty-first, two thousand nine, and a final report of findings,
54 conclusions and recommendations not later than June first, two thousand
55 nine, and shall submit with the reports such legislative proposals as
56 are deemed necessary to implement the commissioner's recommendations.

1 § 7. This act shall take effect on the two hundred seventieth day
2 after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition,
3 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the
4 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be
5 made and completed on or before such effective date.