

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:

1 Section 1. Paragraphs (vii) and (viii) of subdivision (a) of section
2 1046 of the family court act, paragraph (vii) as amended by chapter 432
3 of the laws of 1993, paragraph (viii) as added by chapter 1015 of the
4 laws of 1972, are amended and a new paragraph (ix) is added to read as
5 follows:

6 (vii) neither the privilege attaching to confidential communications
7 between [~~husband and wife~~] spouses, as set forth in section forty-five
8 hundred two of the civil practice law and rules, nor the physician-pa-
9 tient and related privileges, as set forth in section forty-five hundred
10 four of the civil practice law and rules, nor the psychologist-client
11 privilege, as set forth in section forty-five hundred seven of the civil
12 practice law and rules, nor the social worker-client privilege, as set
13 forth in section forty-five hundred eight of the civil practice law and
14 rules, nor the rape crisis counselor or domestic violence
15 advocate-client privilege, as set forth in section forty-five hundred
16 ten of the civil practice law and rules, shall be a ground for excluding
17 evidence which otherwise would be admissible[-]; and

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

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

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1 (ix) previous convictions of disorderly conduct, harassment in the
2 first degree, harassment in the second degree, aggravated harassment in
3 the second degree, sexual misconduct forcible touching, sexual abuse in
4 the third degree, sexual abuse in the second degree as set forth in
5 subdivision one of section 130.60 of the penal law, stalking in the
6 first degree, stalking in the second degree, stalking in the third
7 degree, stalking in the fourth degree, criminal mischief, menacing in
8 the second degree, menacing in the third degree, reckless endangerment,
9 strangulation in the first degree, strangulation in the second degree,
10 criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, assault in the
11 second degree, assault in the third degree, an attempted assault, coer-
12 cion in the third degree as set forth in subdivisions one, two and three
13 of section 135.60 of the penal law between spouses or former spouses, or
14 between parent and child or between members of the same family or house-
15 hold except that if the respondent would not be criminally responsible
16 by reason of age pursuant to section 30.00 of the penal law, shall be
17 taken into consideration for any hearing deciding on the visitation,
18 custody, or rights of a parent with mandatory, batterer specific rehabi-
19 litative measures of no less than twelve months, successfully completed
20 by the respondent prior to a final judgment; provided, however, that any
21 parent undergoing mandatory batterer specific rehabilitation measures
22 shall only be granted supervised visitation.

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