

A. 7554  
S. 4704

M. of A. Rosenthal  
Senator Volker

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law and the family court act, in relation to the issuance of orders of custody and visitation

**THIS BILL IS APPROVED**

The New York State Legislature has proposed a bill which would authorize an experimental program in which orders of protection filed and entered by the family courts of certain counties, including New York, Richmond and Kings Counties, shall be transmitted by fax or electronic means to sheriffs and police departments. The Domestic Violence Committee supports A.7554-B/S.4704-B and encourages both Houses to pass this legislation.

This legislation will protect victims of domestic violence and their children. Because orders of protection cannot be enforced until they are served upon the respondent, victims continue to be without protection from the time the court issues the order until the time it is served. It is important that this service occur as quickly as possible, and allowing orders to be transmitted by fax or electronic means to sheriff's offices and police stations will assist with this process.

However, it is equally important that this program remain voluntary and is used only with the victim's informed consent. Often in New York City, the police department needs the victim to accompany them to serve the respondent, so that a proper identification of the respondent can be made. While this bill would facilitate the transmission of the order to the officers and sheriffs who would serve, the actual service may still require the victim's presence. Victims who voluntarily consent to using this program should be aware of these potential responsibilities.

The Domestic Violence Committee urges you to pass these bills before the close of the legislative session. Thank you for your support. Please contact me with any questions you might have at 718-246-3261.