



**Plain Language Summary for Bill 27:**  
**An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act**

The NWT *Protection Against Family Violence Act* came into force in 2005 to provide emergency and long-term protections for victims of family violence, beyond the protections under the *Criminal Code* (Canada). The Act defines what constitutes family violence and identifies who can apply for an Emergency Protection Order, also known as an EPO. An EPO can be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week from a Justice of the Peace who is satisfied that family violence has taken place or that there is an immediate danger of family violence.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to improve access to EPOs and to address physical and online harassment. Bill 27 widens the definition of family members who may apply for protection under the Act by including:

- persons in a “dating relationship” of some permanence,
- persons in a “care relationship” where one person is dependent on another in their daily life, and
- persons who can reasonably be deemed (considered) to be related.

The Bill seeks to further amend the Act by adding a definition with examples of “stalking” and by adding “stalking” to the list of actions that constitute family violence under the Act. The proposed amendments would allow the RCMP to assist a victim who wants to apply for protection under the Act by identifying the person who is stalking and sharing that information with the victim. Separately, the proposed amendments also establish a new civil recourse for victims of family violence, referred to as the “tort” of stalking and allowing an action to be brought in court.

In addition, the amendments seek to make the language throughout more gender inclusive.

For additional information or questions, contact:

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