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Nauman
3/19/15

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 147()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES VAZQUEZ, Gruenberg, LeDoux, Lynn, Drummond, Edgmon, Guttentberg, Josephson, Ortiz, Tarr, Tuck, Muñoz, Talerico, Stutes

~~Introduced:~~
~~Referred:~~

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the investigation of cruelty to animals complaints; relating to the
2 seizure of animals; relating to the destruction of animals; relating to ~~a bond or security~~
3 ~~posted for~~ the costs of care ~~for~~of an animal that has been seized; relating to the inclusion
4 of an animal in a protective order and the crimes and arrests for violating that
5 protective order; and relating to the ownership of an animal upon divorce or dissolution
6 of marriage."

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

8 * **Section 1.** AS 03.55.110(~~eb~~) is amended to read:

9 (b) A peace officer who receives a complaint of animal cruelty may apply for
10 a search warrant under AS 12.35 to the judicial officer in the judicial district in which
11 the alleged violation has taken place or is taking place. If the court finds that probable
12 cause exists, the court shall issue a search warrant directing a peace officer to proceed

immediately to the location of the alleged violation, search the place designated in the warrant, and, if warranted, seize [TAKE] property, including animals, specified in the warrant. The warrant shall be executed by the peace officer and returned to the court.

* Sec. 2. AS 03.55.110(c) is amended to read:

(c) Before a peace officer may ~~take~~seize [TAKE] an animal and place it into protective custody, the peace officer shall request an immediate inspection and decision by a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98 that placement into protective custody is in the immediate best interest of the animal. If a veterinarian is not available to perform an inspection, before a peace officer may ~~take~~seize [TAKE] an animal, the peace officer shall communicate with a veterinarian who has, after hearing a description of the condition of the animal and its environment, decided it is in the immediate best interest of the animal that it be placed into protective custody. If the peace officer is not able to communicate with a veterinarian, before the officer may take an animal, the officer shall decide it is in the immediate best interest of the animal that it be placed into protective custody [. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION,

"PEACE OFFICER" MEANS

- (1) AN OFFICER OF THE STATE TROOPERS;
- (2) A MEMBER OF THE POLICE FORCE OF A MUNICIPALITY;
- (3) A VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER; OR
- (4) A REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER].

* ~~Sec. 23.~~ Sec. 23. AS 03.55.~~110~~120 is amended ~~by adding a new subsection~~ to read:

~~Sec. (d) In this section,~~

~~(1) "cruelty" includes promoting a fighting exhibition of animals;~~

~~(203.55.120. Seizure of animals. (a) A peace officer shall place an animal in protective custody before seizing [REMOVING] the animal from the location where it was found. If the animal is seized [REMOVED], the peace officer shall place the animal with a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98 or, if a veterinarian is not readily available, with a responsible public or private custodian to be sheltered, cared for, and provided necessary medical attention.~~

(b) A peace officer who has seized [REMOVED] an animal shall immediately notify the animal's owner in writing of the seizure [REMOVAL] and of the owner's

1 right to petition the court under AS 03.55.130 for return of the animal. Notification
2 may be delivered in person, posted at the owner's residence, or mailed to the owner.

3 (c) If a seized [REMOVED]) "~~peace officer~~" means

4 ~~(A) an officer of the state troopers;~~

5 ~~(B) a member of the police force of a municipality;~~

6 ~~(C) a village public safety officer; or~~

7 ~~(D) a regional public safety officer.~~

8 ~~* Sec. 3. AS 03.55.120(c) is amended to read:~~

9 ~~(e) If a removed~~ animal's owner is unknown and cannot be ascertained with
10 reasonable effort,

11 (1) the animal shall be considered a stray or abandoned; and

12 (2) the notice required in (b) of this section shall be conspicuously
13 posted at the premises from which the animal was ~~removed~~ seized.

14 (d) The state, a municipality, or a person [,] that supplies shelter, care,
15 veterinary attention, or medical treatment for an animal seized under this section shall
16 make a reasonable effort to locate the owner.

17 * Sec. 4. AS 03.55.130(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) If a determination is made by a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98, by a
19 peace officer in consultation with a veterinarian licensed under AS 08.98, or by a
20 peace officer who is unable to locate or communicate with a veterinarian licensed
21 under AS 08.98 that an animal seized [REMOVED] under AS 03.55.100 - 03.55.190
22 is injured or diseased to such an extent that, in the opinion of the veterinarian, it is
23 probable the animal cannot recover, the veterinarian or the peace officer may
24 humanely destroy the animal or arrange for the animal's humane destruction.

25 * Sec. 5. AS 03.55.130(b) is amended to read:

26 (b) Upon diagnosis and recommendation of a veterinarian licensed under
27 AS 08.98, a public or private custodian may humanely destroy or arrange for the
28 humane destruction of a severely injured, diseased, or suffering animal that has been
29 seized [REMOVED] under AS 03.55.100 - 03.55.190.

30 * Sec. 6. AS 03.55.130(d) is amended to read:

31 (d) Except as provided in (a) or (b) of this section, the custodian of an animal

1 may not adopt, provide for the adoption of, or euthanize the animal within 10 business
2 days after the animal is taken into custody. An owner or custodian may prevent the
3 animal's adoption or destruction by

4 ~~[(1)]~~ petitioning the court of the judicial district in which the animal
5 was ~~removed~~seized [REMOVED] for the animal's ~~immediate~~[IMMEDIATE] return,
6 subject, ~~if appropriate, [, IF APPROPRIATE,]~~ to court-imposed conditions; ~~or~~ [; OR

7 (2) POSTING A BOND OR SECURITY WITH THE COURT OF
8 THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE ANIMAL WAS SEIZED IN AN
9 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COURT TO BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE
10 FOR THE ANIMAL'S CARE FOR A MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE
11 THE ANIMAL WAS REMOVED].

12 * Sec. 7. AS 03.55.130(e) is repealed and reenacted to read:

13 (e) The court may, on its own accord or upon a filing by the custodian, the
14 owner of the animal, or the entity that seized the animal, enter an order for the cost of
15 care of the animal pending final disposition of the custody of the animal. An order
16 under this section may include a requirement that the owner of the animal post a bond
17 or other security to guarantee that the cost of care of the animal is received and
18 maintained. If, without justifiable cause, the owner of the animal fails to comply with
19 an order under this section, the court may order that the animal be forfeited.

20 * Sec. 8. AS 03.55.130(f) is amended to read:

21 (f) The state may not be required to reimburse a public or private agency,
22 organization, or person that voluntarily assists with **the seizure** [A REMOVAL] of an
23 animal or receives custody of an animal **seized** [REMOVED] under this section for
24 **the cost of care of** [COSTS OF SHELTER, CARE, VETERINARY ASSISTANCE,
25 OR MEDICAL TREATMENT RENDERED TO] the animal.

26 * Sec. 9. AS 03.55.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (g) Nothing in (d) or (e) of this section shall shift the burden of proof from the
28 party who would otherwise have that burden.

29 * Sec. 10. AS 03.55.190 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

30 (4) "cost of care" means the cost of shelter, care, veterinary assistance,
31 and medical treatment rendered to the animal;

1 (5) "cruelty to animals" includes acts constituting cruelty to animals
2 under AS 11.61.140(a), acts promoting an exhibition of fighting animals under
3 AS 11.61.145(a)(1) or (2), and other serious acts of animal cruelty warranting
4 protective actions under AS 03.55.100 - 03.55.190, whether or not they are
5 specifically listed in AS 11.61.140 or 11.61.145;

6 (6) "peace officer" means

7 (A) an officer of the state troopers;

8 (B) a member of the police force of a municipality;

9 (C) a village public safety officer; or

10 (D) a regional public safety officer.

11 * ~~Sec. posting a bond or security with the court of the judicial district~~
12 ~~in which the animal was seized within 10 business days after the court's order to~~
13 ~~post a bond or security under this paragraph in an amount determined by the court~~
14 ~~to be sufficient to provide for the animal's care for a minimum of 30 days from the~~
15 ~~date the animal was seized [REMOVED].~~

16 —* ~~Sec. 5. AS 03.55.130(e) is amended to read:~~

17 ~~(e) [IF THE CUSTODIAN STILL HAS CUSTODY OF THE ANIMAL~~
18 ~~WHEN THE BOND OR SECURITY POSTED UNDER (d)(2) OF THIS SECTION~~
19 ~~EXPIRES AND THE COURT HAS NOT ORDERED AN ALTERNATIVE~~
20 ~~DISPOSITION, THE ANIMAL BECOMES THE CUSTODIAN'S PROPERTY.] If~~
21 ~~an [A COURT] order of the court prevents a [THE] custodian from assuming~~
22 ~~ownership and the custodian continues to care for the animal, the court shall order~~
23 ~~[REQUIRE] the owner of the animal to pay or post a [BY] bond or security for the~~
24 ~~amount ordered under (g) of this section [OTHERWISE] for the custodian's~~
25 ~~continuing costs of care for the animal until a final disposition of the animal is~~
26 ~~ordered [MADE] by the court. Upon the expiration of a bond or security posted~~
27 ~~under this section, the owner shall pay or post the amount ordered by the court~~
28 ~~every 30 days thereafter until a final disposition of the animal is ordered by the~~
29 ~~court. If a bond or security posted under this subsection expires, the owner fails~~
30 ~~to pay or post an additional bond or security, and the court has not ordered an~~
31 ~~alternative disposition, the animal shall become the property of the custodian.~~

~~The court of the judicial district in which the animal was seized may enter an order directing the owner of the animal to pay the custodian an amount sufficient to provide for the animal's care for a minimum of 30 days or to post a bond or security for the same amount. The court may hold a cost-of-care hearing for this purpose. The court shall, if possible, hold a hearing under this section not more than 10 business days after an animal is taken into custody. The custodian or, at the direction of the custodian, a peace officer or person authorized to serve process shall provide notice of the time and place of the hearing to the owner of the animal. If the owner of the animal is unknown and cannot be ascertained with reasonable effort, the custodian or, at the direction of the custodian, a peace officer or person authorized to serve process shall conspicuously post the notice required by this subsection on the premises where the animal was seized.~~

~~*11~~ **Sec. 6.** AS 11.56.740(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person commits the crime of violating a protective order if the person is subject to a protective order

(1) issued or filed under AS 18.66 and **the protective order contains one or more of the provisions** [CONTAINING A PROVISION] listed in AS 18.66.100(c)(1) - (7), ~~(17), and (18)~~ and **the person** knowingly commits or attempts to commit an act with reckless disregard that the act violates or would violate a provision of the protective order;

(2) issued under AS 18.65.850, 18.65.855, or 18.65.860 and knowingly commits or attempts to commit an act that violates or would violate a provision listed in AS 18.65.850(c)(1) - (3); or

(3) issued under AS 13.26.207 - 13.26.209 and knowingly commits or attempts to commit an act with reckless disregard that the act violates or would violate a provision of the protective order.

~~* Sec. 7.~~ **AS 12.30.027(a)** is amended to read:

~~(a) Before ordering release before or after trial, or pending appeal, of a person charged with or convicted of a crime involving domestic violence, the judicial officer shall consider the safety of the victim or other household member. To protect the victim, household member, other persons, and the community and to reasonably~~

~~ensure the person's appearance, the judicial officer~~

~~(1) shall impose conditions required under AS 12.30.011;~~

~~(2) may impose any of the conditions authorized under AS 12.30.011;~~

~~(3) may impose any of the provisions of AS 18.66.100(e)(1) (7);~~

~~[AND] (11), (17), and (18);~~

~~(4) may order the person to participate in a monitoring program with a global positioning device or similar technological means that meets guidelines for a monitoring program adopted by the Department of Corrections in consultation with the Department of Public Safety; and~~

~~(5) may impose any other condition necessary to protect the victim, household member, other persons, and the community, and to ensure the appearance of the person in court, including ordering the person to refrain from the consumption of alcohol¹².~~

~~* Sec. 8.~~ AS 18.65.520(a) is amended to read:

(a) A peace officer investigating a crime involving domestic violence shall orally and in writing inform the victim of the rights of victims of domestic violence and the services available to them. The notice must be in substantially the following form:

If you are the victim of domestic violence and you believe that law enforcement protection is needed for your physical safety, you have the right to request that the officer assist in providing for your safety, including asking for an emergency protective order.

You may also request the officer to assist you in obtaining your essential personal belongings and locating and taking you to a safe place, including a designated meeting place or shelter, the residence of a household member or friend, or a similar place of safety. In some places in Alaska there are organizations that provide aid and shelter to victims of domestic violence. The nearest organization is located at _____.

If you are in need of medical treatment, you may request that the officer assist you in obtaining medical treatment.

1 You may obtain information about whether the prosecuting
2 attorney will file a criminal complaint about the domestic violence.
3 Additionally, the victim/witness assistance program of the Department
4 of Law may be able to help you. This information is available from the
5 district attorney's office, which is located at _____.

6 You also have the right to file a petition in court requesting a
7 protective order that may include any of the following provisions:

8 (1) prohibit your abuser from threatening to commit or
9 committing further acts of domestic violence;

10 (2) prohibit your abuser from stalking, harassing,
11 telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with you, directly
12 or indirectly;

13 (3) remove your abuser from your residence;

14 (4) order your abuser to stay away from your residence,
15 school, place of employment, or any other specified place frequented
16 by you or another designated household member;

17 (5) prohibit your abuser from entering your vehicle or a
18 vehicle you occupy;

19 (6) prohibit your abuser from using or possessing a
20 deadly weapon if the court finds your abuser was in the actual
21 possession of or used a weapon during the commission of your abuse;

22 (7) direct your abuser to surrender any firearm owned or
23 possessed by that person if the court finds your abuser was in the actual
24 possession of or used a firearm during the commission of your abuse;

25 (8) request a peace officer to accompany you to your
26 residence to ensure your safe possession of the residence, vehicle, or
27 other items, or to ensure your safe removal of personal items from the
28 residence;

29 (9) award temporary custody of a minor child to the
30 petitioner and may arrange for visitation with a minor child if the safety
31 of the child and the petitioner can be protected;

1 (10) grant you possession and use of a vehicle and other
2 essential personal ~~effects;~~items, including a pet, regardless of the
3 ownership of those items [EFFECTS];

4 (11) prohibit your abuser from consuming controlled
5 substances;

6 (12) require your abuser to pay support for you or a
7 minor child in your care if there is an independent legal obligation of
8 your abuser to support you or the child;

9 (13) require your abuser to reimburse you for your
10 expenses caused by domestic violence, including medical bills, or for
11 your costs in getting a protective order;

12 (14) order your abuser to participate in an intervention
13 program for batterers; ~~[AND]~~and

14 ~~(15) prohibit your abuser from removing, harming,~~
15 ~~or disposing of an animal owned or possessed by you, your abuser,~~
16 ~~or any other person living in your residence, or authorize you to~~
17 ~~remove an animal from the possession of your abuser;~~

18 ~~(16) grant you the exclusive care, custody, and~~
19 ~~control of an animal owned or possessed by you, your abuser, or~~
20 ~~any other person living in your residence; and~~

21 ~~(17)~~(15) other relief the court determines to be necessary
22 for your safety.

23 The forms you need to obtain a protective order are available
24 from the nearest court. It is not necessary to have an attorney to obtain
25 a protective order, but you may consult an attorney if you choose. If
26 you would like help obtaining a protective order, you may contact the
27 nearest domestic violence program located at _____. The program
28 can also tell you about other resources available in this community for
29 information about domestic violence, treatment of injuries, and places
30 of safety and shelter.

31 You may also qualify for compensation from the Violent

Crimes Compensation Board. The board may be contacted at

_____.

* **Sec. 913.** AS 18.65.590 is amended to read:

Sec. 18.65.590. Definitions [DEFINITION]. In AS 18.65.510 - 18.65.590,

~~(1) "animal" means a vertebrate living creature not a human being, but does not include fish;~~

~~(2)(1) "domestic violence" has the meaning given in AS 18.66.990.;~~

(2) "pet" means a vertebrate living creature maintained for companionship or pleasure, but does not include dogs primarily owned for participation in a generally accepted mushing or pulling contest or practice or animals primarily owned for participation in rodeos or stock contests.

~~* **Sec. 14** * **Sec. 10.** AS 18.66.100(b) is amended to read:~~

~~(b) When a petition for a protective order is filed, the court shall schedule a hearing and provide at least 10 days' notice to the respondent of the hearing and of the respondent's right to appear and be heard, either in person or by an attorney. If the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that the respondent has committed a crime involving domestic violence against the petitioner, regardless of whether the respondent appears at the hearing, the court may order any relief available under (c) of this section. The provisions of a protective order issued under~~

~~(1) (c)(1) of this section are effective until further order of the court;~~

~~(2) (c)(2) ~~(18)~~ [(c)(2) ~~(16)~~] of this section are effective for one year unless earlier dissolved by court order.~~

~~* **Sec. 11.** AS 18.66.100(c) is amended to read:~~

(c) A protective order under this section may

(1) prohibit the respondent from threatening to commit or committing domestic violence, stalking, or harassment;

(2) prohibit the respondent from telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating directly or indirectly with the petitioner;

(3) remove and exclude the respondent from the residence of the petitioner, regardless of ownership of the residence;

(4) direct the respondent to stay away from the residence, school, or

1 place of employment of the petitioner or any specified place frequented by the
2 petitioner or any designated household member;

3 (5) prohibit the respondent from entering a propelled vehicle in the
4 possession of or occupied by the petitioner;

5 (6) prohibit the respondent from using or possessing a deadly weapon if
6 the court finds the respondent was in the actual possession of or used a weapon during
7 the commission of domestic violence;

8 (7) direct the respondent to surrender any firearm owned or possessed
9 by the respondent if the court finds that the respondent was in the actual possession of
10 or used a firearm during the commission of the domestic violence;

11 (8) request a peace officer to accompany the petitioner to the
12 petitioner's residence to ensure that the petitioner

13 (A) safely obtains possession of the petitioner's residence,
14 vehicle, or personal items; and

15 (B) is able to safely remove a vehicle or personal items from the
16 petitioner's residence;

17 (9) award temporary custody of a minor child to the petitioner and may
18 arrange for visitation with a minor child if the safety of the child and the petitioner can
19 be protected; if visitation is allowed, the court may order visitation under the
20 conditions provided in AS 25.20.061;

21 (10) give the petitioner possession and use of a vehicle and other
22 essential personal items, including a pet, regardless of ownership of the items;

23 (11) prohibit the respondent from consuming controlled substances;

24 (12) require the respondent to pay support for the petitioner or a minor
25 child in the care of the petitioner if there is an independent legal obligation of the
26 respondent to support the petitioner or child;

27 (13) require the respondent to reimburse the petitioner or other person
28 for expenses associated with the domestic violence, including medical expenses,
29 counseling, shelter, and repair or replacement of damaged property;

30 (14) require the respondent to pay costs and fees incurred by the
31 petitioner in bringing the action under this chapter;

1 (15) order the respondent, at the respondent's expense, to participate in
2 (A) a program for the rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence that meets the
3 standards set by, and that is approved by, the Department of Corrections under
4 AS 44.28.020(b), or (B) treatment for the abuse of alcohol or controlled substances, or
5 both; a protective order under this section may not require a respondent to participate
6 in a program for the rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence unless the
7 program meets the standards set by, and that is approved by, the Department of
8 Corrections under AS 44.28.020(b);

9 (16) order other relief the court determines necessary to protect the
10 petitioner or any household member~~;~~.

11 ~~(17) prohibit the respondent from removing, harming, or disposing~~
12 ~~of an animal owned or possessed by the petitioner, respondent, or any other~~
13 ~~person living in the residence;~~

14 ~~(18) grant the petitioner the exclusive care, custody, and control of~~
15 ~~an animal owned or possessed by the petitioner, respondent, or any other person~~
16 ~~living in the residence.~~

17 ~~* Sec. 12. AS 18.66.110(a) is amended to read:~~

18 ~~(a) A person who is a victim of a crime involving domestic violence may file a~~
19 ~~petition under AS 18.66.100(a) and request an ex parte protective order. If the court~~
20 ~~finds that the petition establishes probable cause that a crime involving domestic~~
21 ~~violence has occurred, it is necessary to protect the petitioner from domestic violence,~~
22 ~~and if the petitioner has certified to the court in writing the efforts, if any, that have~~
23 ~~been made to provide notice to the respondent, the court shall ex parte and without~~
24 ~~notice to the respondent issue a protective order. An ex parte protective order may~~
25 ~~grant the protection provided by AS 18.66.100(e)(1) — (5), (8) — (12), and (16) — (18)~~
26 ~~[(16)]. An ex parte protective order expires 20 days after it is issued unless dissolved~~
27 ~~earlier by the court at the request of either the petitioner or the respondent and after~~
28 ~~notice and, if requested, a hearing. If a court issues an ex parte protective order, the~~
29 ~~court shall have the order delivered to the appropriate local law enforcement agency~~
30 ~~for expedited service and for entry into the central registry of protective orders under~~
31 ~~AS 18.65.540.~~

1 ~~* Sec. 13. AS 18.66.110(b) is amended to read:~~

2 ~~(b) A peace officer, on behalf of and with the consent of a victim of a~~
 3 ~~crime involving domestic violence, may request an emergency protective order from a~~
 4 ~~judicial officer. The request may be made orally or in writing based on [UPON] the~~
 5 ~~sworn statement of a peace officer, and in person or by telephone. If the court finds~~
 6 ~~probable cause to believe that the victim is in immediate danger of domestic violence~~
 7 ~~based on an allegation of the recent commission of a crime involving domestic~~
 8 ~~violence, the court ex parte shall issue an emergency protective order. In an~~
 9 ~~emergency protective order, the court may grant the protection provided by~~
 10 ~~AS 18.66.100(c)(1) -- (5), (8), (10), (11), and (16) -- (18) [(16)]. An emergency~~
 11 ~~protective order expires 72 hours after it is issued unless dissolved earlier by the court~~
 12 ~~at the request of the petitioner.~~

13 ~~* Sec. 14. AS 18.66.130(a) is amended to read:~~

14 ~~(a) If a respondent in a protective order issued under AS 18.66.100 -- 18.66.180~~
 15 ~~is prohibited from communicating with the petitioner, excluded from the residence of~~
 16 ~~the petitioner, [OR] ordered to stay away from the petitioner as provided in~~
 17 ~~AS 18.66.100(c)(2) -- (5), or prohibited from removing, harming, or disposing of~~
 18 ~~an animal as provided in AS 18.66.100(c)(17), an invitation by the petitioner to~~
 19 ~~communicate, enter the residence or vehicle, or have other prohibited contact with the~~
 20 ~~petitioner or the animal does not waive or nullify any provision in a protective order.~~

21 * Sec. 15. AS 18.66.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

22 (11) "animalpet" means a vertebrate living creature ~~not a human~~
 23 ~~being~~maintained for companionship or pleasure, but does not include ~~fish~~dogs
 24 primarily owned for participation in a generally accepted mushing or pulling contest
 25 or practice or animals primarily owned for participation in rodeos or stock contests.

26 * Sec. 16. AS 22.15.030(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) The district court has jurisdiction of civil cases, including foreign
 28 judgments filed under AS 09.30.200 and arbitration proceedings under AS 09.43.170
 29 or 09.43.530 to the extent permitted by AS 09.43.010 and 09.43.300, as follows:

30 (1) for the recovery of money or damages when the amount claimed
 31 exclusive of costs, interest, and attorney fees does not exceed \$100,000 for each

1 defendant;

2 (2) for the recovery of specific personal property, when the value of the
3 property claimed and the damages for the detention do not exceed \$100,000;

4 (3) for the recovery of a penalty or forfeiture, whether given by statute
5 or arising out of contract, not exceeding \$100,000;

6 (4) to give judgment without action upon the confession of the
7 defendant for any of the cases specified in this section, except for a penalty or
8 forfeiture imposed by statute;

9 (5) for establishing the fact of death or cause and manner of death of
10 any person in the manner prescribed in AS 09.55.020 - 09.55.069;

11 (6) for the recovery of the possession of premises in the manner
12 provided under AS 09.45.070 - 09.45.160 when the value of the arrears and damage to
13 the property does not exceed \$100,000;

14 (7) for the foreclosure of a lien when the amount in controversy does
15 not exceed \$100,000;

16 (8) for the recovery of money or damages in motor vehicle tort cases
17 when the amount claimed exclusive of costs, interest, and attorney fees does not
18 exceed \$100,000 for each defendant;

19 (9) over civil actions for taking utility service and for damages to or
20 interference with a utility line filed under AS 42.20.030;

21 (10) over cases involving protective orders for domestic violence under
22 AS 18.66.100 - 18.66.180;

23 **(11) over cases involving cruelty to or seizure, destruction, ~~or~~**
24 **adoption, or cost of care of animals under AS 03.55.100 - 03.55.190.**

25 * **Sec. 17.** AS 25.24.160(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) In a judgment in an action for divorce or action declaring a marriage void
27 or at any time after judgment, the court may provide

28 (1) for the payment by either or both parties of an amount of money or
29 goods, in gross or installments that may include cost-of-living adjustments, as may be
30 just and proper for the parties to contribute toward the nurture and education of their
31 children, and the court may order the parties to arrange with their employers for an

1 automatic payroll deduction each month or each pay period, if the period is other than
2 monthly, of the amount of the installment; if the employer agrees, the installment shall
3 be forwarded by the employer to the clerk of the superior court that entered the
4 judgment or to the court trustee, and the amount of the installment is exempt from
5 execution;

6 (2) for the recovery by one party from the other of an amount of money
7 for maintenance, for a limited or indefinite period of time, in gross or in installments,
8 as may be just and necessary without regard to which of the parties is in fault; an
9 award of maintenance must fairly allocate the economic effect of divorce by being
10 based on a consideration of the following factors:

11 (A) the length of the marriage and station in life of the parties
12 during the marriage;

13 (B) the age and health of the parties;

14 (C) the earning capacity of the parties, including their
15 educational backgrounds, training, employment skills, work experiences,
16 length of absence from the job market, and custodial responsibilities for
17 children during the marriage;

18 (D) the financial condition of the parties, including the
19 availability and cost of health insurance;

20 (E) the conduct of the parties, including whether there has been
21 unreasonable depletion of marital assets;

22 (F) the division of property under (4) of this subsection; and

23 (G) other factors the court determines to be relevant in each
24 individual case;

25 (3) for the delivery to either party of that party's personal property in
26 the possession or control of the other party at the time of giving the judgment;

27 (4) for the division between the parties of their property, including
28 retirement benefits, whether joint or separate, acquired only during marriage, in a just
29 manner and without regard to which of the parties is in fault; however, the court, in
30 making the division, may invade the property, including retirement benefits, of either
31 spouse acquired before marriage when the balancing of the equities between the

1 parties requires it; and to accomplish this end the judgment may require that one or
2 both of the parties assign, deliver, or convey any of their real or personal property,
3 including retirement benefits, to the other party; the division of property must fairly
4 allocate the economic effect of divorce by being based on consideration of the
5 following factors:

6 (A) the length of the marriage and station in life of the parties
7 during the marriage;

8 (B) the age and health of the parties;

9 (C) the earning capacity of the parties, including their
10 educational backgrounds, training, employment skills, work experiences,
11 length of absence from the job market, and custodial responsibilities for
12 children during the marriage;

13 (D) the financial condition of the parties, including the
14 availability and cost of health insurance;

15 (E) the conduct of the parties, including whether there has been
16 unreasonable depletion of marital assets;

17 (F) the desirability of awarding the family home, or the right to
18 live in it for a reasonable period of time, to the party who has primary physical
19 custody of children;

20 (G) the circumstances and necessities of each party;

21 (H) the time and manner of acquisition of the property in
22 question; and

23 (I) the income-producing capacity of the property and the value
24 of the property at the time of division;

25 **(5) if an animal is owned, for the ownership or joint ownership of**
26 **the animal, considering the well-being of the animal.**

27 * **Sec. 18.** AS 25.24.200(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) A husband and wife together may petition the superior court for the
29 dissolution of their marriage under AS 25.24.200 - 25.24.260 if the following
30 conditions exist at the time of filing the petition:

31 (1) incompatibility of temperament has caused the irremediable

1 breakdown of the marriage;

2 (2) if there are unmarried children of the marriage under the age of 19
3 or the wife is pregnant, and the spouses have agreed on which spouse or third party is
4 to be awarded custody of each minor child of the marriage and the extent of visitation,
5 including visitation by grandparents and other persons if in the child's best interests,
6 and support to be provided on the children's behalf, whether the payments are to be
7 made through the child support services agency, and the tax consequences of that
8 agreement;

9 (3) the spouses have agreed as to the distribution of all real and
10 personal property that is jointly owned or community property under AS 34.77,
11 including retirement benefits and the payment of spousal maintenance, if any, and the
12 tax consequences resulting from these payments; the agreement must be fair and just
13 and take into consideration the factors listed in AS 25.24.160(a)(2) and (4) so that the
14 economic effect of dissolution is fairly allocated; [AND]

15 (4) the spouses have agreed as to the payment of all unpaid obligations
16 incurred by either or both of them and as to payment of obligations incurred jointly in
17 the future; and

18 ~~(5) if an animal is owned, the spouses have agreed to the ownership~~
19 ~~or joint ownership of the animal, taking into consideration the well-being of the~~
20 ~~animal.~~

21 * **Sec. 19.** AS 25.24.200(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) A husband or wife may separately petition for dissolution of their marriage
23 under AS 25.24.200 - 25.24.260 if the following conditions exist at the time of filing
24 the petition:

25 (1) incompatibility of temperament, as evidenced by extended absence
26 or otherwise, has caused the irremediable breakdown of the marriage;

27 (2) the petitioning spouse has been unable to ascertain the other
28 spouse's position in regard to the dissolution of their marriage and in regard to the fair
29 and just division of property, including retirement benefits, spousal maintenance,
30 payment of debts, animals, and custody, support, and visitation because the
31 whereabouts of the other spouse is unknown to the petitioning spouse after reasonable

1 efforts have been made to locate the absent spouse; and

2 (3) the other spouse cannot be personally served with process inside or
3 outside the state.

4 * **Sec. 20.** AS 25.24.200(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) Except as provided in AS 25.24.220(i), a spouse who has been personally
6 served with a copy of a petition filed under (a) of this section may execute an
7 appearance, waiver of time to answer, and waiver of notice of hearing. The appearance
8 and waivers must include an acknowledgment signed before an officer authorized to
9 administer an oath or affirmation that the spouse being served has read the petition;
10 assents to the terms relating to custody of the children, child support, visitation,
11 spousal maintenance taking into consideration the factors listed in AS 25.24.160(a)(2),
12 and tax consequences, division of property, including retirement benefits and taking
13 into consideration the factors listed in AS 25.24.160(a)(4), **ownership of animals**
14 **taking into consideration the well-being of the animals**, and allocation of debts;
15 agrees that the conditions otherwise required by (a) of this section exist; agrees that
16 the petition constitutes the entire agreement between the parties; understands fully the
17 nature and consequences of the action; and is not signing the appearance and waivers
18 under duress or coercion.

19 * **Sec. 21.** AS 25.24 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 **Sec. 25.24.990. Definition.** In this chapter, "animal" means a vertebrate living
21 creature not a human being, ~~but does not include fish.~~