



Oklahoma Equal Parenting and Family Law Reform Act

Draft Bill Proposal – Parent-Child EPOs (Formal Legislative Format)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW. A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section XXX of Title 43, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Before granting any Emergency Protective Order (EPO) that restricts parental rights, custody, visitation, or contact with a child, the court shall require that a verified investigation be conducted to determine the validity of allegations.

B. The investigation may be conducted by law enforcement, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, or other appropriate agency. Findings from such investigation shall be submitted to the court prior to issuance of the protective order, unless immediate and demonstrable danger to the child is established.

SECTION 2. Judges shall consider all findings of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services or other child welfare agencies before issuing an order that impacts the parent–child relationship.

SECTION 3. Any individual who knowingly provides false information, or who relies on expunged records in an application for a protective order, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor offense.

SECTION 4. The purpose of this Act is to ensure due process and protect constitutional rights guaranteed under the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution, while preserving the safety and welfare of children.