MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

Date: 2/26/02

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Vratil at 9:34 a.m. on February 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Revisor Mike Heim, Research Jerry Donaldson, Research Mary Blair, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Jay Emler Alan Hazlett, Attorney, Topeka Jim Ruble, Lindsborg Rodney Durr, Wichita Paul Davis, Kansas Bar Association (KBA)

Others attending: see attached list

The minutes of the February 22nd, 2002 meeting were approved on a motion by Senator Adkins, seconded by Senator Goodwin. Carried.

SB 585-establishing a putative father registry

Conferee Senator Emler testified in support of <u>SB 585</u>, a bill he introduced which amends current law by establishing a registry whereby a putative father may register with the SRS and be placed on a list which entitles him to receive, in addition to any other notice, a notice of termination of parental rights proceedings for the purpose of adoption. (<u>no attachment</u>) He briefly discussed the purpose of the bill and it's provisions and answered Committee members inquiries.

Conferee Hazlett testified in support of <u>SB 585</u>. He shared from his experience as an adoption litigator discussing the bill and answering several questions from Committee members, for example, on inquiry by Committee regarding the father's rights, he stated, "if a putative father doesn't register that he's the father after a certain amount of time, he loses his parental rights." (no attachment) Discussion followed.

Conferee Ruble testified in support of <u>SB 585</u>. He shared personal testimony as an adoptive father and stated that this bill will result in an improved adoption process.(<u>attachment 1</u>)

Conferee Durr testified in support of <u>SB 585</u>. He shared personal testimony as an adoptive father, discussed several of the bill's provisions and summarized the bill as one which "shifts the responsibility of the mother for her having to track down the father and for him to step up to the plate and take responsibility." (<u>no attachment</u>) Lengthy discussion followed.

Final Action:

SB 453-arrest for violation of condition of sentence

Following a review of <u>SB 453</u> by the Chair and discussion by Committee, <u>Senator Schmidt moved to pass the bill out favorably</u>, <u>Senator Goodwin seconded</u>. <u>Carried</u>.

SB 474-protection from stalking act

The Chair reviewed <u>SB 474</u> and upon his request, Paul Davis, KBA, explained the amendments offered by the KBA.(<u>attachment 2</u>) Following discussion <u>Senator Oleen moved to strike the language in the bill where it states "no docket fee", Senator Vratil seconded. Upon further discussion Senator Oleen withdrew her motion and Senator Vratil withdrew his second. <u>Senator Adkins moved to adopt the amendment offered by the KBA and report the bill out favorably as amended, Senator Schmidt seconded. Carried with Senator Pugh requesting his nay vote be recorded.</u></u>

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is February 26, 2002.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 166 25, 2002

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dravie Albert	KOOR - DMW
Scott Heidner	Intrust Bank
Mark Gleeson	Judicial Branch
Mike Taylor	City of Wichita
Sandy Jacquot	LKM
Tiffany Muller	KCSDV
Sandy Barnett	KCSDV
Mitry FEIGHNY	Att. General
Juliene, Melli	A6 oppue
Kelly Jenn	16 office
Donforda	SRS
Rodney Durr	Myself
Jim Rulle	Adoptive Parent
Charles Simmons	Dept. of Corrections
Doug Smith	Dehart & Darr
Swan Bahard	KNAA
Jason Moone	KU Phormacy Shodent /KPLA KS Phormacist Assoc.
Bob Williams	KS Pharmacist Associ
JAMES FRAZIER	JJA
Almia X Malha	YDOX-DMV

Aprila O. Walker Drug A. Moroly Janet Mcherson

KDA KS Farm Bureau

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-25-02

NAME	REPRESENTING
Lais Ruble	Apeclalaer
Marjary Schenthe	Spectotas
Flivous & Schenfler	Spectator
James Halled	Speciation
Donne Suble	En Cu.
Caileen Hayell	KCC
May A	ATTERNEY
lara Jensen	Rep. Pottor PP
Jeff Bothnbor	State Form
Parl Davis	KBA
SEREN PEPIGO	Governor's Office
Jan Brashe	KSC
Brenda Harmon	KSC -
Joe Herold	KSC
Mike Roocht	Ko Doit Consulting
Joe Lieber	KS Co-of Council
STEUE KHARIEK	ATTORICEY GENERAL
KELTH R LANDIS	ON PUBLICATION FOR KANSAS
Bruce Dimmit	Independent

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

NAME					
NAME	REPRESENTING				
Greg Krissek	KCGA / KGSPA				
Doig Wareham	Karsas Agribisiness Retailer Assn.				
Connie Burns	Whitney B Donron PA				
Jan Kangley	KTLA				
Mary White	KTLA				
Karly Parele	Ludiceel Brude				

Monday February 25, 2002 Senate Judiciary Committee SB 585 Putative Father Registry Act

Good morning. My name is Jim Ruble from Lindsborg, Ks. I want to thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today and to express my support for SB 585, the putative father registry act. My wife, Donna, and I are the parents of two boys, Timothy and Isaiah, both of whom are adopted. I want to share with you some of the our experiences with the adoption process in hopes that it will shed some light on the need for this legislation.

We adopted Timothy in May of 1997. His birth mother was 17 years old at the time and still in high school. Realizing that she was unable to support a baby, she had chosen us as the adoptive parents. Over the course of several months, we had come to know each other and had worked out an adoptive plan which included our presence for the birth. Twelve hours after Timothy was born, she signed the necessary paper work terminating her parental rights and giving us custody of our son.

The birth father was 18 years old. An unemployed high school drop out, he didn't have a car or even a drivers license. He lived with a friend after being kicked out of his parents home. There had been very little contact with him during the pregnancy and he had provided no financial support to the birth mother. Our attorney had made numerous attempts to contact him prior to and after the birth regarding his intentions; but, we received no response. As required, we sent him notice of the final adoption hearing which was scheduled almost two months after the birth. Much to our surprise and dismay, he showed up at the court house. You can't even begin to imagine the emotions of that day. He had no home or means of supporting a child. He had done nothing to support the child or the birth mother during the pregnancy. He had not responded to any of our attempts to contact him, yet here he was coming in at the last minute because "he had rights." We were devastated! Why would someone who had shown no interest in the whole process do this? The only thing we could do was go to court, hope, and pray for a positive outcome.

In a custody situation such as this, everyone must have legal representation. However, since he could not afford an attorney, we had to hire one for him. Please think about this for a moment. Here we are fighting for custody of our son and we have to hire an attorney to oppose us. It was absolutely crazy.

We were, however, very fortunate in the final outcome. With the help of an adoption facilitator, provided by a non-profit group called Miriam Ministries, we were able to work out a solution outside of court. The birth father signed a voluntary termination of his parental rights and the adoption was finalized in August of 1997, but only after a great deal of emotional turmoil for us and the birth mother and added legal expenses, all of which was unnecessary.

Isaiah, our youngest son, was adopted in October of 2000. His birth mother was 22 years old, unmarried, and had 3 other children. She could not financially or emotionally care for another child. With the help of Miriam Ministries, she had chosen us as adoptive parents for her baby. We met her in August of that year and developed a very close relationship over the next two months. We were in contact weekly, attended doctors appointments, and helped provide day care for her children during the final weeks of her pregnancy. Her birth plan included our participation in the delivery. Twenty four hours after Isaiah was born, she signed the paper work terminating her parental rights and giving us custody of our son.

The birth father was unemployed and had been in and out of jail during the previous year. He had provided no financial or emotional support during the pregnancy. Our attorney had been in contact with him over the previous two months discussing the adoption. After the baby was born, he voluntarily signed the order terminating his parental rights.

The final adoption hearing was scheduled for early December. Although the birth father had voluntarily terminated his rights, we were still required to send him notice of the final hearing. We arrived at the court house for what we hoped would be a short, uneventful process. However, it was not to be. The birth father showed up. He was apparently trying to recant his voluntary termination signed some two months earlier.

So once again, we had an unemployed birth father who had provided no support during the pregnancy, had signed a voluntary termination of his parental rights, and who had voiced no objection to the adoption, coming forward at the last minute. He also could not afford legal counsel, so once again, we got the privilege of hiring an attorney to represent him against us. I wish someone would explain the logic of this to me!

Again, we were very fortunate. With the help of an adoption facilitator, we were able to work out a solution without going to court, but not without an unbelievable amount of stress and expense that was completely unnecessary.

If the putative father registry had been in place prior to our two adoptions, I believe we would have avoided the emotional turmoil and needless legal expenses that resulted from the appearance of "last minute birth fathers." Neither of them had a good case for claiming custody of our children based on their actions over the previous 9 months; however, they could still show up and cause problems.

Adoptive couples expend a considerable amount of time, effort and money in preparing for an adoption; taking MAPP classes, getting home studies, completing applications, contacting agencies and attorneys, meeting birth mothers, the list goes on and on. It is not a short term effort. Many couples wait for years for the opportunity to adopt. They take an active role in the process physically, emotionally, and financially.

All that SB 585 requires is that a putative father register. That's it. It does not change his rights or responsibilities with respect to the child or the birth mother. He must simply take responsibility for his actions and make his intentions known in a reasonable amount of time. Passage of this bill will result in an improved adoption process; this process will achieve the ultimate goal of finding good homes for children in need. All children have the right to a good home with loving, caring, and involved parents. I strongly urge your support of this bill. Thank you for allowing me to talk with you today.



State of Kansas

Office of the Attorney General

120 S.W. 10th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1597

CARLA J. STOVALL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 21, 2002

Main Phone: (785) 296-2215 Fax: (785) 296-6296

Sen. John Vratil Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee 120-S, Capitol Building Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Senate Bill 474

Dear Sen. Vratil:

Attached please find the balloon for SB 474. The Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and this office met and decided on these changes to the bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CARLA J STOVALL

Juliene A. Maska

Statewide Victims' Rights Coordinator

Attachment cc: Sen. David Adkins KCSDV

KBA

STAND

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SENATE BILL No. 474

By Senators Adkins, Vratil and Goodwin

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AN ACT enacting the protection from stalking act; amending K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3438, 21-3721 and 21-3843 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the protection from stalking act.

(b) This act shall be liberally construed to promote the protection of victims of stalking from harassment and to facilitate access to judicial protection for stalking victims, whether represented by counsel or proceedings pro se.

New Sec. 2. As used in the protection from stalking act:

(a) "Stalking" means intentional harassment of another person.

(b) "Harassment" means a knowing and intentional course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys; torments or terrorizes the person, and that serves no legitimate purpose.

(c) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose and which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of "course of conduct."

New Sec. 3. The district courts shall have jurisdiction over all proceedings under the protection from stalking act.

New Sec. 4. (a) A person may seek relief under the protection from stalking act by filing a verified petition with the district judge or clerk of the court in the county where the stalking occurred. A verified petition must allege facts sufficient to show the following:

- (1) The name of the stalking victim;
- (2) the name of the defendant; and

(3) that the defendant has engaged in stalling.

- (b) A parent or an adult residing with a minor child may seek relief under the protection from stalking act on behalf of the minor child by filing a verified petition with the district judge or with the clerk of the court in the county where the stalking occurred.
 - (c) The clerk of the court shall supply the forms for the petition and

that places the other person in reasonable fear for that person's own personal safety.

which is directed at a specific person that (i) causes that other person to have a reasonable fear for personal safety, or (ii) serves no legitimate purpose, and is intended either to seriously alarm, threaten or torment another person.

consisting of two or more separate

the dates on which the alleged stalking behavior occurred; and

(4) the acts committed by the defendant that are alleged to constitute stalking.

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residence or household Such order shall contain a statement that if such order is violated, such violation shall constitute criminal trespass as provided in subsection (a)(1)(C) of K.S.A. 21-3721, and amendments thereto, and violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3843; and amendments thereto.

(4) Awarding costs and attorney fees to either party.

. (5) Ordering or restraining any other acts deemed necessary to promote the safety of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's minor children.

(b) A protection from stalking order shall remain in effect until modified or dismissed by the court and shall be for a fixed period of time not to exceed one year, except that, on motion of the plaintiff, such period may be extended for one additional year.

(c) The court may amend its order at any time upon motion filed by

either party.

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(d) If a person follows, harasses, telephones, contacts or otherwise communicates with another violating an order issued pursuant to subsection (a)(1), such violation may constitute stalking as provided in K.S.A. 21-3438, and amendments thereto, and violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3843, and amendments thereto. If a person abuses, molests or interferes with the privacy or rights of another violating an order issued pursuant to subsection (a)(2), such violation may constitute stalking as provided in K.S.A. 21-3438, and amendments thereto, assault as provided in K.S.A. 21-3408, and amendments thereto, battery as provided in K.S.A. 21-3412, and amendments thereto, and violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3843, and amendments thereto. If a person enters on premises or property violating an order issued pursuant to subsection (a)(3), such violation shall constitute criminal trespass as provided in subsection (a)(1)(C) of K.S.A. 21-3721, and amendments thereto, and violation of a protective order as provided in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3843; and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 7. A copy of any order under the protection from stalking act shall be issued to the plaintiff the defendant and the police department of the city where the plaintiff resides. If the plaintiff does not reside in a city or resides in a city with no police department, a copy of the order shall be issued to the sheriff of the county where the order is issued.

New Sec. 8. Except of otherwise provided in the protection from stalking act, any proceedings under this act shall be in accordance with chapter 60 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated and shall be in addition to any other available civil or criminal remedies.

New Sec. 9. If upon hearing, the court finds a violation of any order under the protection from stalking act, the court may find the defendant in contempt pursuant to K.S.A. 20-1204a, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3438 is hereby amended to read as

_victim

Before the expiration of an order for protection from stalking, a victim, or a parent on behalf of the victim, may request an extension of the protection from stalking order for up to one additional year on showing of continuing threat of stalking.

victim victim victim

follows: 21-3438. (a) Stalking is an intentional, malicious and repeated following or harassment of another person and making a credible threat with the intent to place such person in reasonable fear for such person's safety.

· Stalking is a severity level 10, person felony.

(b) Any person who violates subsection (a) when there is an order issued pursuant to the protection from stalking act, sections 1 through 9, and amendments thereto, a temporary restraining order or an injunction; or both, in effect prohibiting the behavior described in subsection (a) against the same person, is guilty of a severity level 9, person felony.

(c) Any person who has a second or subsequent conviction occurring against such person, within seven years of a prior conviction under subsection (a) involving the same victim, is guilty of a severity level 8, person

felony.

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(d) For the purposes of this section; (1) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose and which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to the person. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of "course of conduct."

(2) "Harassment" means a knowing and intentional course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, andoys, forments or

terrorizes the person, and that serves no legitimate purpose,

(3) "Credible threat" means a verbal or written threat; including that which is communicated via electronic means, or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct or a combination of verbal or written statements and conduct made with the intent and the apparent ability to carry out the threat so as to cause the person who is the target of the threat to reasonably fear for such person's safety. The present incarceration of a person making the threat shall not be a bar to prosecution under this section.

(4) "Electronic means" includes, but is not limited to, telephones, cellular phones, computers, video recorders, fax machines, pagers and

computer networks.

Sec. 11. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3721 is hereby amended to read as

follows; 21-3721. (a) Criminal trespass is:

(1) Entering or remaining upon or in any land, nonnavigable body of water, structure, vehicle, aircraft or watercraft other than railroad property as defined in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3761 and amendments thereto by a person who knows such person is not authorized or privileged to do sc, and:

(A) Such person enters or remains therein in defiance of an order not to enter or to leave such premises or property personally communi19

cated to such person by the owner thereof or other authorized person; or

(B) such premises or property are posted in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders, or are locked or fenced or otherwise enclosed, or shut or secured against passage or entry; or

(C) such person enters or remains therein in defiance of a restraining order issued pursuant to section 5, section 6, K.S.A. 60-1607, 60-3105, 60-3106 or 60-3107 or K.S.A. 38-1542, 38-1543 or 38-1563, and amendments thereto and the restraining order has been personally served upon the person so restrained; or

(2) entering or remaining upon or in any public or private land or structure in a manner that interferes with access to or from any health care facility by a person who knows such person is not authorized or privileged to do so and such person enters or remains thereon or therein in defiance of an order not to enter or to leave such land or structure personally communicated to such person by the owner of the health care facility or other authorized person.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Health care facility" means any licensed medical care facility, certificated health maintenance organization, licensed mental health center, or mental health clinic, licensed psychiatric hospital or other facility or office where services of a health care provider are provided directly to patients.

(2) "Health care provider" means any person: (A) Licensed to practice a branch of the healing arts; (B) licensed to practice psychology; (C) licensed to practice professional or practical nursing; (D) licensed to practice dentistry; (E) licensed to practice optometry; (F) licensed to practice pharmacy; (G) registered to practice podiatry; (H) licensed as a social worker; or (I) registered to practice physical therapy.

(c) (1) Criminal trespass is a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

(2) Upon a conviction of a violation of subsection (a)(1)(C), a person shall be sentenced to not less than 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment which must be served either before or as a condition of any grant of probation or suspension, reduction of sentence or parole.

Sec. 12. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3843 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-3843. (a) Violation of a protective order is knowingly or intentionally violating:

- (1) A protection from abuse order issued pursuant to K.S.A. 60-3105, 60-3106 and 60-3107, and amendments thereto:
- (2) a protective order issued by a court of any state or Indian tribe that is consistent with the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 2265, and amendments thereto;
 - (3) a restraining order issued pursuant to K.S.A. 38-1542, 38-1543,

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38-1563 and 60-1607, and amendments thereto;

(4) an order issued as a condition of pretrial release, diversion, probation, suspended sentence or postrelease supervision that orders the person to refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with another person; or

(5) an order issued as a condition of release after conviction or as a condition of a supersedeas bond pending disposition of an appeal, that orders the person to refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with another person; or

(6) a protection from stalking order issued pursuant to section 5 or

6, and amendments thereto.
(b) As used in this section, "order" includes any order issued by a municipal or district court.

(c) Violation of a protective order is a class A person misdemeanor.

(d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas criminal code.

Sec. 13. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 21-3438, 21-3721 and 21-3843 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 14. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book