

CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

NOTICE
1.8

February 11, 2021

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Chief of Detectives

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1141 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COERCIVE CONTROL

On January 1, 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 1141 Domestic Violence Coercive Control, became law and amends California Family Code Section 6320. Existing law authorizes a court to issue an ex parte order enjoining a party from engaging in specific actions against another party, including threatening or harassing that party or disturbing the peace of the other party, and, in the discretion of the court, against other named family or household members. A violation of this court order constitutes contempt of court, which is punishable as a misdemeanor.

The definition of “disturbing the peace of the other party” was amended by SB 1141 to include conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, destroys the mental or emotional calm of the other party. This conduct may be committed directly or indirectly, including through the use of a third party, and by any method or through any means including, but not limited to, telephone, online accounts, text messages, internet-connected devices, or other electronic technologies.

This conduct includes, but is not limited to, **coercive control**, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person’s free will and personal liberty. Examples of **coercive control** include, but are not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following:

- Isolating the other party from friends, relatives, or other sources of support;
- Depriving the other party of basic necessities;
- Controlling, regulating, or monitoring the other party’s movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources, or access to services; or,
- Compelling the other party by force, threat of force, or intimidation, including threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to engage in conduct from which the other party has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the other party has a right to engage.

Officers shall be aware of the possible addition of coercive control to restraining orders when investigating possible court order violations. Coercive control behavior should be documented in domestic violence reports and/or Emergency Protective Orders to assist victims in obtaining future restraining orders. Officers should also be aware that evidence of coercive control can

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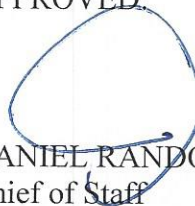
now be introduced in criminal prosecutions just as other evidence of prior domestic violence can. Therefore, proper documentation of coercive control is essential.

If you have any questions, please contact the Domestic Violence Coordinator, Detective Bureau, at (213) 486-7000.

APPROVED:



KRIS E. PITCHER, Deputy Chief
Chief of Detectives



DANIEL RANDOLPH, Commander
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