

# SENATE, No. 384

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Corrado, Ruiz and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes certain requirements for domestic violence training for certain judges and judicial personnel.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence training for certain judges  
2 and judicial personnel, and amending P.L.1991, c.261.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. (1) The Division of Criminal Justice shall develop and  
10 approve a training course and curriculum on the handling,  
11 investigation and response procedures concerning reports of  
12 domestic violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and  
13 disabled. This training course and curriculum shall be reviewed at  
14 least every two years and modified by the Division of Criminal  
15 Justice from time to time as need may require. The Division of  
16 Criminal Justice shall distribute the curriculum to all local police  
17 agencies.

18 (2) The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that  
19 all law enforcement officers attend initial training within 90 days of  
20 appointment or transfer and annual **[inservice]** in-service training  
21 of at least four hours as described in this section.

22 b. (1) The Administrative **[Office]** Director of the Courts  
23 shall develop and approve a training course and a curriculum **[on**  
24 the handling, investigation and response procedures concerning  
25 allegations of domestic violence. This training course] for all  
26 municipal court judges, Superior Court judges responsible for the  
27 adjudication of domestic violence matters, and judicial personnel  
28 involved with the intake and processing of domestic violence  
29 complaints. All judges and judicial personnel identified in this  
30 section shall participate in core training regarding issues such as the  
31 dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on  
32 children, trauma-informed danger assessments, batterer intervention  
33 and anger management programs, and domestic violence risk  
34 factors and lethality. In addition, municipal court judges shall  
35 receive specific training related to the issuance of temporary  
36 restraining orders in emergent situations. Superior Court judges  
37 responsible for the adjudication of domestic violence matters shall  
38 receive supplemental training related to the issuance and  
39 enforcement of temporary and final restraining orders, including  
40 factors considered when determining if a final restraining order  
41 should be issued, child custody and parenting plans, the setting of  
42 child support, distribution of property and ongoing housing  
43 expenses, and counseling. The core curriculum and individualized  
44 training programs shall be reviewed at least every two years and

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 modified by the Administrative **【Office】** Director of the Courts  
2 from time to time as need may require.

3 (2) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall be  
4 responsible for ensuring that all municipal court judges , Superior  
5 Court judges responsible for the adjudication of domestic violence  
6 matters, and judicial personnel involved with the intake and  
7 processing of domestic violence complaints attend initial training  
8 within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual **【inservice】**  
9 in-service training as described in this section.

10 (3) The **【Division of Criminal Justice】** Attorney General and the  
11 Administrative **【Office】** Director of the Courts shall provide that all  
12 training on the handling of domestic violence matters shall include  
13 information concerning the impact of domestic violence on society,  
14 the dynamics of domestic violence, the statutory and case law  
15 concerning domestic violence, the necessary elements of a  
16 protection order, policies and procedures as promulgated or ordered  
17 by the Attorney General or the Supreme Court, and the use of  
18 available community resources, support services, available  
19 sanctions and treatment options.

20 Law enforcement agencies shall: (1) establish domestic crisis  
21 teams or participate in established domestic crisis teams, and (2)  
22 shall train individual officers in methods of dealing with domestic  
23 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled. The  
24 teams may include social workers, clergy or other persons trained in  
25 counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic  
26 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled victims.  
27 (cf: P.L.1999, c.433, s.1)

28  
29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

30  
31

## 32 STATEMENT

33

34 This bill establishes certain training requirements for certain  
35 judges and judicial personnel concerning domestic violence.

36 Currently, section 4 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20) requires all  
37 judges and judicial personnel to attend initial domestic violence  
38 training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and to attend  
39 annual in-service training.

40 The bill directs the Administrative Director of the Courts to  
41 develop and approve a training course and a curriculum for all  
42 municipal court judges, Superior Court judges responsible for the  
43 adjudication of domestic violence matters, and judicial personnel  
44 involved with the intake and processing of domestic violence  
45 complaints. The bill provides that all such judges and judicial  
46 personnel would participate in core training regarding issues such  
47 as the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of domestic  
48 violence on children, trauma-informed danger assessments, batterer

1 intervention and anger management programs, and domestic  
2 violence risk factors and lethality.

3 In addition, municipal court judges would receive specific  
4 training related to the issuance of temporary restraining orders in  
5 emergent situations. The above-described Superior Court judges  
6 would receive supplemental training related to the issuance and  
7 enforcement of temporary and final restraining orders, including  
8 factors considered when determining if a final restraining order  
9 should be issued, child custody and parenting plans, the setting of  
10 child support, distribution of property and ongoing housing  
11 expenses, and counseling. The core curriculum and individualized  
12 training programs would be reviewed at least every two years and  
13 modified by the Administrative Director of the Courts from time to  
14 time as need may require.

15 This expanded training program would continue to be  
16 administered within 90 days of the judge's or judicial personnel's  
17 appointment or transfer and then annually.

18 This bill embodies Recommendation 12 of the Report of the  
19 Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence issued  
20 June 2016.