

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/15/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1361

By: Representatives Speaks, *B. Smith, Baltz, Beck, Bentley, Brown, Burch, Dalby, Drown, Fortner, Henderson, Lemons, Lundstrum, Payton, Rushing, Sorvillo, Sturch, Vaught, Watson*

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001; TO ADD *EMOTIONAL* ABUSE AS A GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001; AND TO ADD *EMOTIONAL* ABUSE AS A GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-11-802, concerning definitions under the Covenant Marriage Act of 2001, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3) "Emotional abuse" means an ongoing pattern or cycle of nonphysical behavior or attitude that controls, intimidates, subjugates, demeans, punishes, or isolates another person by using degradation, humiliation, or fear and that results in depression or overwhelming feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and poor physical or mental health by the victim.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-11-808(a)(3), concerning divorce or separation, is amended to read as follows:

(3) The other spouse has emotionally, physically, or sexually abused the spouse seeking the divorce or a child of one (1) of the spouses;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-11-808(b)(3), concerning divorce or separation, is amended to read as follows:

(3) The other spouse has emotionally, physically, or sexually abused the spouse seeking the legal separation or divorce or a child of one (1) of the spouses;

/s/Speaks