

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS (PURSUANT TO THE POLICE REFORM ACT, 2015)

Sponsored by Senator Dino Melaye

[] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal republic of Nigeria as follows:

1 1. As from the commencement of this Law no person shall commit
2 any act of domestic violence against any person.

3 2. -(1) Any complainant may in the prescribed manner apply to the
4 court for a protection order. Complainant's application

5 (2) Where the complainant is not represented by a legal
6 representative, the Registrar of the court shall inform the complainant of:

7 (a) the relief available in compliance with this Law; and Relief available

8 (b) the right to also lodge a criminal complaint against the
9 respondent, if a criminal offence has been committed by the respondent.

10 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the Interested party
11 application, may be brought on behalf of the complainant by any other
12 person; including a counselor, health service provider, member of the
13 Nigeria Police Force, social worker, organization or teacher, who has an
14 interest in the well being of the complainant; provided that the application
15 shall be brought with the consent of the complainant, except in
16 circumstances where the complainant:

17 (a) a minor;

18 (b) mentally retarded;

19 (c) unconscious;

20 (d) incapable to consent for fear of refusal; or

1 (e) a person whom the court is satisfied unable to provide the required
2 consent.

3 (4) The application referred to in Section 2 shall be brought to a judge
4 in chambers where the complainant may suffer undue hardship if the
5 application is not dealt with immediately.

Affidavit

6 (5) The application and affidavit shall be lodged with the Registrar of
7 the court who shall within 72 hours submit the application and affidavit to the
8 court.

9 3. Any member of the Nigeria Police, health worker, etc. Shall, at the
10 scene of an incident of domestic violence or as soon as is reasonably possible,
11 or when the incident of domestic violence is reported:

Medical
treatment

12 (i) render such assistance to the complainant as may be required in the
13 circumstances, including assisting or making arrangement for the complainant
14 to find a suitable shelter and to obtain medical treatment;

15 (ii) shall issue a notice containing information as prescribed to the
16 complainant in the language the complainant understands; and

17 (iii) shall explain to the complainant the context of such notice in the
18 prescribed manner, including the remedies at his or her disposal in compliance
19 with this Law and the right to lodge a criminal complaint, if applicable.

Arrest &
Warrant

20 4.-(1) A Police Officer may warrant arrest any person at the scene of
21 an incident of domestic violence whom he or she reasonably suspect of having
22 committed an offence containing an element of violence against a complainant.

Detention

23 (2) Any person arrested under subsection (1) shall not be detained
24 beyond the time prescribed under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of
25 Nigeria, 1999.

Interim
protection order

26 5.-(1) The court shall, notwithstanding the fact that the respondent has
27 not been given notice of the proceedings issue an interim protection order
28 against the respondent, in the prescribed manner where:

29 (a) the person is committing or has committed an act of domestic
30 violence; and

1 (b) undue hardship may be suffered by the complainant as a result
2 of such domestic violence if a protection order is not issued immediately.

3 (2)(a) An interim protection order shall be served on the
4 respondent in the prescribed manner and shall call upon the respondent to
5 show cause on the return date specified in the order why a protection order
6 should not be issued;

7 (b) A copy of the application referred to shall be served on the
8 respondent together with the interim protection order.

9 (3) Where the court does not issue an interim protection order in
10 terms of subsection (1) above, the court shall direct the Registrar of the
11 Court to cause certified copies of the application and any supporting
12 affidavits to be served on the respondent in the prescribed manner, together
13 with a prescribed notice calling on the respondent to show cause on the
14 return date specified in the notice why a protection order should not be
15 issued.

Service on
applicant

16 (4) The return dates referred to in subsections (2)(a) and (3) above
17 may not be less than 8 days after service has been effected upon the
18 respondent; Provided that the return date referred to may be anticipated by
19 the respondent who shall within 2 hours issue written notice to the
20 complainant and the court.

21 (5) Upon service or receipt of an interim protection order, the
22 Registrar of the court shall cause:

23 (a) a certified copy of the interim projection order; and

24 (b) the original warrant of arrest contemplated in Section 8(1)(a) to
25 be served on the complainant.

26 6.-(1) Where the respondent fails to appear on a return date
27 contemplated in Sections 5(2) and (3), and the court is satisfied that:

Certificate of
Service

28 (a) proper service has been effected on the respondent; and

29 (b) the application contains prima facie evidence that the
30 respondent has committed or is committing an act of domestic violence, the

1 court shall issue a protection order in the prescribed form.

Evidence upon
Affidavits

2 (2) Where the respondent appears on the return date in order to oppose
3 the issuance of a protection order, the court shall proceed to hear the matter and
4 consider any additional evidence received and such further affidavits or oral
5 evidence shall form part of the record of the proceedings.

6 (3) The court may, on its own accord or on the request of the
7 complainant, order that in the examination of witnesses, including the
8 complainant, a respondent who is not represented by a legal representative:

9 (a) is not entitled to cross-examine directly by a person who is in a
10 domestic relationship with the respondent; and

11 (b) shall put any question to such a witness to the court, and the court
12 shall repeat the question accurately to the respondent.

Balance of
probability

13 (4) The Court shall, after a hearing, as Contemplated in subsection
14 (2), issue a protection order in the prescribed form on a balance of probability,
15 that the respondent has committed or is committing an act of domestic
16 violence.

17 (5) Upon the issuance of a protection order, the Registrar of the court
18 shall in the prescribed manner cause:

19 (a) the original of such order to be served on the respondent; and

Certified copies
under
Section 8(1)(a)

20 (b) a certified copy of such order, with the original copy of the Warrant
21 of arrest contemplated in Section 8(1)(a) to be served on the complainant.

22 (6) The Registrar of the court shall in the prescribed manner forward
23 certified copies of any protection order and of the warrant of arrest
24 contemplated in Section 8(1)(a) to the police station of the complainant's
25 choice.

26 (7) Subject to the Provisions of section 5(1), a protection order issued
27 in terms of this section remains in force until it is set aside, and the execution of
28 such order shall not be automatically suspended upon the notice of appeal.

29 7.-(1) The court, by means of a protection order referred to in Section
30 5 and 6, prohibit the respondent from:

- 1 (a) committing any act or any further act of domestic violence;
2 (b) enlisting the help of another person to commit any of such act;
3 (c) entering a residence shared by himself and the complainants;

4 Provided that the Court may impose this application only if it appears to be
5 in the best interest of the complainant;

- 6 (d) entering a specific part of such a shared residence;
7 (e) entering the complainant's residence;
8 (f) entering the complainant's place of work;
9 (g) preventing the complainant who ordinarily lives or lived in a
10 shared residence as contemplated in subparagraph (c) from entering or
11 remaining in the shared residence or a specified part of the shared residence;
12 (h) committing any other act as specified in the protection order.

13 (2) The court may impose any additional conditions which it
14 deemed reasonably necessary to protect and provide for the safety, health or
15 well-being of the complainant, including an order:

- 16 (a) to seize any arm or dangerous weapon in the possession or
17 under the control of the respondent, as contemplated in Section 9; and
18 (b) that a Police Officer must accompany the complainant to a
19 specific place to assist with arrangements regarding the connection of
20 personal property.

21 (3) In ordering a prohibition contemplated in Section 7 subsection
22 (1)(c), the court shall impose on the respondent obligations as to the
23 discharge of rent or mortgage payments having regard to the financial needs
24 and resources of the complainant and the respondent.

25 (4) The court shall order the respondent to pay emergency
26 monetary relief having regard to the financial needs and resources of the
27 complainant and the respondent, and such order has that effect of a civil
28 judgment of the relevant court.

29 (5) (a) The physical address of the complainant shall be omitted
30 from the protection order, unless the nature of the terms of the order

Restraining the
complainant

Weapon Under
Section 9

Prohibition under
Section 7
Subsection (1)(c)

1 necessitates the inclusion of such address.

2 (b) The court shall issue directions to ensure that the complainant's
3 physical address is not disclosed in any manner that may endanger the safety,
4 health or wellbeing of the complainant.

5 (6) If the court is satisfied that it is in the best interest of the child, it
6 shall:

7 (a) refuse the respondent contact with such child;

Order and custody
of a child

8 (b) order contact with such child on such conditions as it shall
9 consider appropriate; or

10 (c) make order as to custody of the child.

11 (7) (a) The court may not refuse:

12 (1) to issue a protection order; or (ii) to impose any condition or make
13 any order which it is competent to impose or make under this section, merely
14 on the grounds that other legal remedies are available to the complainant.

Matrimonial
Law

15 (2) If the court is of the opinion that any provision of a protection
16 order which deals with a matter that should, in the interest of justice, be dealt
17 with further in compliance with any other relevant law, including the
18 Matrimonial Causes Law of the relevant states, the court shall determine, in
19 order to afford the party concerned the opportunity to seek appropriate relief in
20 terms of such law,

21 (8) (a) the court shall, while issuing the protection order referred to in
22 sections 5 and 6, order that the respondent or the complainants as the case may
23 be, or any other person as it shall deem fit, undergo compulsory period of
24 counseling in respect of the matter for which the application was brought.

Counseling
Centres

25 (b) The Chief Judge of the Federation shall, in exercising his powers
26 under Section 16 of this Law, designate counseling centres in each state which
27 shall consist but not limited to welfare officers, professional counselors, civil
28 servants, groups or any other relevant institution.

29 8.-(1) Whenever a court issues a protection order, the court shall I
30 make an order:

- 1 (a) Authorizing the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the Arrest of
2 respondent, in the prescribed form; and Respondent
- 3 (b) Suspending the execution of such warrant subject to
4 compliance with any prohibition, obligation or order imposed in
5 compliance with Section 7.
- 6 (2) The warrant referred to in subsection (1)(a) remains in force Setting aside
7 unless the protection order is set aside, or it is cancelled after execution. Protective order.
- 8 (3) The registrar of the court shall issue the complainant with a
9 second or further warrant of arrest, if the complainant files an affidavit in the
10 prescribed form in which it is stated that such warrant is required for his or
11 her protection and the existing warrant has been:
- 12 (a) Executed and cancelled; or (b) Lost or destroyed.
- 13 (4) (a) A complainant may hand the warrant of arrest together with
14 an affidavit in the prescribed form stating that the respondent has
15 contravened any prohibition, condition, obligation or order contained in a
16 protection order, to any member of the Nigeria Police Force.
- 17 (b) If it appears to the Police Officer concerned that, subject to Imminent harm
18 subsection (5), there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the complainant as a result of
19 may suffer imminent harm as a result of the illegal breach of the protection breach of
20 order by the respondent, the Police Officer shall arrest the respondent for protective order
21 allegedly committing the offence referred to in Section 5(a).
- 22 (c) If the Police Officer concerned is of the opinion that there are Grounds for
23 insufficient grounds for arresting the respondent in compliance with arrest
24 paragraph (b), he or she shall serve a written notice on the respondent which
25 shall:
- 26 (i) specifies the name, the residential address and the occupation or
27 status of the respondent;
- 28 (ii) call upon the respondent to appear before a court, on a date and
29 at the time specified in the notice, on a charge of the offence referred to in
30 section 5(a); and

1 (iii) contains a certificate signed by the police officer concerned to the
2 effect that he or she has served the original notice on the respondent and that he
3 or she explained the content to the respondent.

Prima facie
proof

4 (d) The Police Officer shall forward a copy of the notice referred to in
5 paragraph (c) to the Registrar of the court concerned, and the mere production
6 of such duplicate, original shall be prima facie proof that the original was
7 served on the respondent.

8 (5) In considering whether or not the complainant may suffer
9 imminent harm as contemplated in subsection (4)(b), the member of the
10 Nigeria Police Force shall take into account:

11 (a) the risk of the safety, health or wellbeing of the complainant:

Seriousness of
the conduct

12 (b) the seriousness of the conduct comprising an allegedly breach of
13 the protection order; and

14 (c) the length of time of the alleged breach.

Criminal charges

15 (6) Whenever a warrant of arrest is forward to the Nigeria Police
16 Force in compliance with subsection (4)(a), a Police Officer shall inform the
17 complainant of his or her right to lay a criminal charge against the respondent,
18 where applicable, and explain to the complainant how to lay such a charge.

19 9.-(1) The court shall order a member of the Nigeria Police Force to
20 seize any arm or dangerous weapon in the possession or under the control of a
21 respondent, the court if satisfied on the evidence placed before it, including any
22 affidavits supporting an application referred to in Section 4(1), above that:

Threat with
intention

23 (a) the respondent has threatened or expressed the intention to kill or
24 injure himself or herself, or any person in a domestic relationship, whether or
25 not by means of such arm or dangerous weapon; or

Processing a
weapon

26 (b) possession of such arm or dangerous weapon is not in the best
27 interest of the respondent or any other person in a domestic relationship, as a
28 result of the respondent's:

29 (i) state of mind or mental condition;

30 (ii) inclination to violence; or

1 (iii) use of or dependence on intoxicating liquor or drugs.

2 (2) Any arm seized in terms of subsection (1) above must be
3 handed over to the Nigeria Police Force as contemplated in the Police Act
4 cap 154 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990 and Firearms Act
5 Cap. 69 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990.

Service of
arms

6 (3) Any dangerous weapon seized in compliance with subsection
7 (1) above:

8 (a) must be given a distinctive identification mark and retained in
9 police custody for such period of time as the court shall determine; and

Identification
mark

10 (b) shall only be returned to the respondent or, if the respondent is
11 not the owner of the firearm or dangerous weapons, to the owner by order of
12 the court and on such condition as the court shall determine;

13 Provided that:

14 If the court is satisfied that it is in the interest of the safety of any person
15 concerned, or in the public interest the court shall order that the firearm or
16 dangerous weapon be forfeited to the State.

Public interest

17 10.-(1) A complainant or a respondent may, upon written notice to
18 the other party and the court concerned, apply for the variation or setting
19 aside of a protection order referred to in Section 6.

20 (2) If the court is satisfied that good cause has been shown for the
21 variation or setting aside of the protection order, it shall issue an order to this
22 effect; Provided that the court shall not grant such an application unless it is
23 satisfied that the application is made freely and voluntarily.

Good cause
shown

24 (3) The Registrar of the court shall forward a notice as prescribed to
25 the complainant and the respondent if the protection order is varied or set
26 aside as contemplated in subsection (1) above.

27 11.-(1) No person shall be present during any proceeding in
28 compliance with this Law except:

29 (a) officers of the court;

Proceedings

30 (b) the parties to the proceedings; or

1 (c) any person bringing an application on behalf of complainant in
2 compliance with Section 4(3), which maybe:

3 (i) any legal representative of any party to the proceedings;

4 (ii) witnesses;

5 (iii) not more than three persons for the purpose of providing support
6 to the complainant; or

7 (iv) any other person whom the court permit to be present. Provided
8 that the court shall, if it deems fit, exclude any person from attending any part
9 of the proceedings; and

Exclusion of
persons

10 (d) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the court from hearing
11 proceedings in camera or excluding any person from attending such
12 proceedings.

Publication

13 (2)(a) No person shall publish any information which might directly
14 or indirectly reveal the identity of any party to the proceedings;

15 (b) the court, shall direct that any information relating to proceedings
16 held in compliance with the provisions of this Law shall not be published; and

17 (c) provisions of subsection (2)(b) shall not be applicable to
18 publication of a bonafide Law, such report provided does not reveal the identity
19 of parties and witness to the proceedings.

Jurisdiction

20 **12.**-(1) Any Federal court within the FCT and the States has
21 jurisdiction to grant protection order if:

22 (a) the complainant permanently or temporarily resides, carries on
23 business or is employed;

24 (b) the respondent resides, carries on business or is employed; or

25 (c) the cause of action arose in the FCT or the State.

26 (2) No specific minimum period is required in relation to Subsection
27 (1)(a).

28 (3) A protection order shall be enforceable throughout the Federation
29 irrespective of where the order was made.

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| 1 | (4) The Chief Judge of the Federal Courts shall create a special | Counseling Unit |
| 2 | court, e.g. family court which shall have a counseling unit to which Section | |
| 3 | 7(8) may apply. | |
| 4 | 13. -(1) Service of any document in compliance with the provisions | Act Cap. Law of |
| 5 | of this Law shall be effected in a prescribed manner by the registrar of the | LFN 1990 |
| 6 | court, or as prescribed by the sheriffs and civil processes Act Cap 189 Law of | |
| 7 | the Federation of Nigeria 1990, or as the court shall direct. | |
| 8 | (2) The regulations contemplated in Section 17 shall make | |
| 9 | provisions for financial assistance by the court to a complainant or a | |
| 10 | respondent who does not have means to pay the fee for any service in | |
| 11 | compliance with this law. | |
| 12 | 14. The provisions in respect of appeal and review in the | Appeal |
| 13 | Magistrates' Court or High Court of the State shall apply to any proceedings | |
| 14 | in compliance with this Law. | |
| 15 | 15. -(a) Any person who contravenes any prohibition, condition, | Conviction |
| 16 | obligation or order imposed in Section 7. shall be guilty of an offence and | |
| 17 | liable on conviction to a fine of N100,000 or imprisonment for a period not | |
| 18 | exceeding five years or to both such fine and imprisonment; | |
| 19 | (b) Any person who contravenes the provision of Section 11 (2)(a) | Punishment |
| 20 | or 11 (2)(b) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of | |
| 21 | N50,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year or to both | |
| 22 | such fine and imprisonment; or | |
| 23 | (c) Any person who willfully makes a false statement in an | False Statement |
| 24 | affidavit referred to in sections 8(4) and (9)(a) shall be guilty of an offence | in affidavit |
| 25 | and liable on conviction to a fine of N20,000 or imprisonment for a period | |
| 26 | not exceeding one year (1 year) or to both such fine and imprisonment. | |
| 27 | 16. No Police Officer shall: | |
| 28 | (a) refuse to institute a prosecution; or | |
| 29 | (b) withdraw a charge, in respect of contravention of Section 15(a), | withdrawal of |
| 30 | unless he or she has been authorized, whether in general or in any specific | charges |

1 case, by the Attorney-General of the State as contemplated in Section 19S of
2 the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

3 17. The Chief Judge of the Federation, shall make regulations
4 regarding:

5 (a) any form required to be prescribed in this Law;

6 (b) any matter required to be prescribed in terms of this Law; and

7 (c) any other matter, which he or she deems necessary or expedient to
8 be prescribed in order to achieve the objects of this Law.

Interpretation

9 18. -(1) In this Law, unless the context indicates otherwise:

Firearms Act
Cap. 69 LFN 1990

10 (a) "Arm" means any armor any armament as defined in Section
11 (1)(1) of the Firearms Act Cap. 69 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990;

12 (b) "Child" means an infant or any person below 18 years;

13 (c) "Complainant" means any person who is or has been in a domestic
14 relationship with a respondent and who is or has been subjected to allegedly
15 subjected to an act of domestic violence, including any child in the care of the
16 complainant;

17 (d) "Court" includes Magistrates or Federal High Court or State court
18 or any court that has criminal jurisdiction;

Damage to
property

19 (e) "Damage to property" means the willful damaging or destruction
20 of property belonging to a complainant or in which the complainant has a
21 vested interest, whether legal or equitable;

Domestic
relationship

22 (f) "Domestic relationship" includes a relationship between
23 complainant and a respondent in any of the following ways where:

24 (i) they are married to each other, including marriage according to any
25 law, custom or religion;

26 (ii) they live or lived together in a relationship in the nature of
27 marriage, although they are not or were not, married to each other, or are not
28 able to be married to each other;

29 (iii) they are the parents of a child or are persons who have or had
30 parental responsibility for a child (whether or not at the same time);

- 1 (iv) they are family members related by consanguinity, affinity or
2 adoption;
- 3 (v) they are or were in an engagement, dating or customary
4 relationship, including an actual or perceived romantic, intimate or sexual
5 relationship of any duration; or
- 6 (vi) they share or recently shared the same residence, including
7 housemaids, domestic servants or staff, housekeepers or unpaid licenses.
- 8 (g) "Domestic violence" means acts listed below against any Domestic violence
9 person:
- 10 (i) physical abuse;
- 11 (ii) sexual abuse exploitation including but not limited to rape,
12 incest and sexual assault;
- 13 (iii) starvation;
- 14 (iv) emotional, verbal and psychological abuse;
- 15 (v) economic abuse and exploitation;
- 16 (vi) denial of basic education;
- 17 (vii) intimidation;
- 18 (viii) harassment;
- 19 (ix) stalking;
- 20 (x) hazardous attack including acid bath with offensive or
21 poisonous substance;
- 22 (xi) damage to property;
- 23 (xii) entry into the complainant's residence without consent where
24 the parties do not share the same residence; or
- 25 (xiii) any other controlling or abusive behaviour towards a
26 complainant, where such conduct harms or may cause imminent harm to the
27 safety, health or well being of the complainant;
- 28 (xiv) deprivation.
- 29 (h) "Economic abuse" includes: Economic abuse
- 30 (i) the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources

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|---------------------------|----|--|
| | 1 | to which a complainant is entitled under the Law or which the complainant |
| | 2 | requires out of necessity, including household necessities for the complainant, |
| | 3 | and mortgage bond repayments or payment of rent in respect of the shared |
| | 4 | residence; or |
| | 5 | (ii) the unreasonably disposal or, seizure of household effects or other |
| | 6 | property in which the complainant has an interest including any equitable or |
| | 7 | legal interest. |
| Emergency money relief | 8 | (i) "Emergency monetary" relief means compensation for monetary |
| | 9 | losses suffered by a complainant at the time of the issue of a protection order as |
| | 10 | a result of the domestic violence, including: |
| | 11 | (i) loss of earnings; |
| | 12 | (ii) medical expenses; |
| | 13 | (iii) relocation and accommodation expenses; or |
| | 14 | (iv) necessities. |
| Psychological abuse | 15 | (j) "Emotional, verbal and psychological abuse" means a pattern of |
| | 16 | degrading or humiliating conduct towards a -I complainant, including: |
| | 17 | (i) Repeated insults, ridicule or name calling as to cause emotional |
| | 18 | pain; |
| | 19 | (ii) Repeated threats to cause emotional pain; or |
| | 20 | (iii) The repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness or jealousy, |
| | 21 | which constitute a serious invasion of the complainant's privacy, liberty, |
| | 22 | integrity or security; |
| Explanation | 23 | (k) "Exploitation" connotes taking undue advantage of the |
| | 24 | complainant. |
| Harassment | 25 | (l) "Harassment" means engaging in a pattern of conduct that induces |
| | 26 | the fear of harm to a complainant including: |
| | 27 | (i) Repeatedly watching, or loitering outside of or near the building or |
| | 28 | place where the complainant resides, works, carries on business, studies and |
| | 29 | place of recreation after studies; |
| | 30 | (ii) Repeatedly making telephone calls or inducing another person to |

1 make telephone calls to the complainant, whether or not conversation
2 ensues;

3 (iii) Repeatedly sending, delivering or causing the delivery of
4 letters, telegrams, packages, facsimiles, electronic mail or other objects to
5 the complainant;

6 (m) "Intimidation" means uttering or conveying a threat, or
7 causing a complainant to receive a threat, which induces fear, anxiety;

8 (n) "Organization" means civil servant, groups, religious groups,
9 or community organizations;

10 (o) "Police Officer" or "member of the Nigeria Police Force"
11 means any member as defined in Section 1 of the Police Act Cap 154, Laws
12 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990;

Section 1 of the
Police Act Cap
154 LFN 1990

13 (p) "Physical abuse" means any act or threatened act of physical
14 violence towards the person of the complainant;

15 (q) "Physical address" means where the complainant(s) relocated
16 to for safety;

17 (r) "Prescribed" means prescribed in terms of a regulation made
18 under Section 19;

19 (s) "Protection order" means an order issued in terms of Section 5
20 or 6 but, in Section 6, excludes an interim protection order;

21 (t) "Relevant state" means the state in which the complainant
22 ordinarily resides or where the incident occurs;

23 (u) "Respondent" means any person who is or has been in a
24 domestic relationship with a complainant and who has committed or
25 allegedly committed an act of domestic violence including any person who
26 conspires, aids, facilitates or assists in the commission or alleged
27 commission of domestic violence against the complainant;

28 (v) "Sexual abuse" means any conduct that abuses, humiliates,
29 degrades or otherwise violates the sexual integrity, or dignity of the victim;

30 (w) "Sheriff" means a sheriff appointed in terms of the Sheriff and

1 Civil Processes Act Cap 189, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990;
Stalking 2 (x) "Stalking" means repeatedly following, pursuing, or accosting the
3 victim;
4 (y) "Third party complainant" means any person, body of persons or
5 organization that lodges complaint on behalf of or for the interest of any
6 complainant;
7 (z) "Violence" includes denial of right.

Citation 8 19. This Bill may be cited as the Protection Against Domestic
9 Violence Bill, 2015.

10 FINANCIAL COMPENDIUM
11 There is no financial implication with this bill under the Police Reform act.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM
This bill is under the Police Reform Act dealing with protection against domestic violence and the new legal standards for aiding the Police in handling such matters.