

NOTICE

NEW STATE LAW

INCREASING THE CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR ASSAULTING ANY SOCIAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE

THIS NEW LAW INCREASES THE PENALTIES FOR ASSAULTS OF WORKERS WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN AN INTERVIEW, INVESTIGATION, OR IN PROVIDING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. THE LAW WOULD APPLY TO ANYONE COMMITTING A CRIME TO PREVENT A SOCIAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE FROM COMPLETING HIS OR HER JOB DUTIES, INCLUDING INSTANCES WHERE AN INJURY IS CAUSED BY A PERSON RELEASING OR FAILING TO CONTROL AN ANIMAL.

THE CURRENT PENALTY HAS BEEN RAISED FROM ASSAULT IN THE THIRD DEGREE, A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR, WHICH IS PUNISHABLE BY UP TO BUT NO MORE THAN 1 YEAR IN JAIL, TO ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE, WHICH IS A CLASS D FELONY, IF THE ASSAULT CAUSES PHYSICAL INJURY. THE CLASS D FELONY CARRIES A \$500. - \$5,000. FINE, AND FROM 2 TO 7 YEARS JAIL TIME.

SOCIAL SERVICES WORKERS PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND REQUIRE AND DESERVE THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THIS ENHANCED PENALTY.

THIS NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT ON November 1, 2012