

CHAPTER 195

AN ACT concerning penalties for domestic violence offenses and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.2C:25-29.1 Civil penalty for certain domestic violence offenders.

1. In addition to any other disposition, any person found by the court in a final hearing pursuant to section 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29) to have committed an act of domestic violence shall be ordered by the court to pay a civil penalty of at least \$50, but not to exceed \$500. In imposing this civil penalty, the court shall take into consideration the nature and degree of injury suffered by the victim. The court may waive the penalty in cases of extreme financial hardship.

C.2C:25-29.2 Collection, distribution of civil penalties collected.

2. All civil penalties imposed pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2001, c.195 (C.2C:25-29.1) shall be collected as provided by the Rules of Court. All moneys collected shall be forwarded to the Domestic Violence Victims' Fund established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2001, c.195 (C.30:14-15).

C.30:14-15 "Domestic Violence Victims" Fund."

3. a. There is hereby established the "Domestic Violence Victims' Fund," a dedicated fund within the General Fund and administered by the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services. The fund shall be the depository of moneys realized from the civil penalty imposed pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2001, c.195 (C.2C:25-29.1) and any other moneys made available for the purposes of the fund.

b. All moneys deposited in the "Domestic Violence Victims' Fund" shall be used for direct services to victims of domestic violence, including, but not limited to, shelter services, legal advocacy services and legal assistance services, and for related administrative costs of the Division of Youth and Family Services.

C.2C:25-29.3 Rules of Court.

4. The Supreme Court may promulgate Rules of Court to effectuate the purposes of this act.

C.30:14-16 Rules, regulations.

5. The Department of Human Services may promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

6. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following enactment, except for sections 4 and 5 which shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 2, 2001.