

By: Representatives Watson, Scott (80th)

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 870  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE DEFINITIONS IN THE PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE LAW; AND  
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. Section 93-21-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 93-21-3. As used in this chapter, unless the context  
8 otherwise requires:

9 (a) "Abuse" means the occurrence of one or more of the  
10 following acts between family or household members who reside  
11 together or who formerly resided together or between individuals  
12 who have a current dating relationship:

13 (i) Attempting to cause or intentionally,  
14 knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury or serious bodily  
15 injury with or without a deadly weapon;

16 (ii) Placing, by physical menace or threat,  
17 another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or

18 (iii) Criminal sexual conduct committed against a  
19 minor within the meaning of Section 97-5-23.

20 (b) "Adult" means any person eighteen (18) years of age  
21 or older, or any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has  
22 been emancipated by marriage.

23 (c) "Court" means the chancery court, or the justice  
24 court, municipal court or county court.

25 (d) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship  
26 of a romantic or intimate nature.

27           (e) "Family or household member" means spouses, former  
28 spouses, persons living as spouses, parents and children, or other  
29 persons related by consanguinity or affinity.

30           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
31 and after July 1, 2001.