

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 64 (HB 297)

2026 Regular Session

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Existing law defines "domestic abuse" as domestic abuse battery, as defined in existing law (R.S. 14:35.3), provided that the domestic abuse was committed on the leased premises.

New law expands the definition of "domestic abuse" to include stalking and cyberstalking as defined in existing law (R.S. 14:40.2 and 14.40.3).

Prior law defined "qualified third party" as the executive director, program director, or another employee of a community-based shelter contracted with the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), provided the employee is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or possesses a masters degree in Social Work (MSW).

New law amends the definition of "qualified third party" and removes the requirement for the employee of a community-based shelter contracted with DCFS to possess a masters degree in Social Work (MSW).

New law also adds the following to the "qualified third party" list if the party has personal involvement in the investigation or prosecution of any criminal case relative to the domestic abuse or stalking or cyberstalking:

- (1) A licensed professional counselor.
- (2) Prosecuting attorney.
- (3) Investigating law enforcement officer.

Existing law provides that only a lessee or a household member of the lessee's residential dwelling may be considered a domestic abuse victim and provides the required process in which a lessee may obtain an early lease termination. One of the requirements is to provide reasonable documentation of the domestic abuse that occurred on the premises within 30 days.

New law also permits a domestic abuse victim to provide a declaration on the Certification of Domestic Abuse form, even if the stalking or cyberstalking did not occur on the leased premises, on why residing on the premises may pose a threat to the victim's safety.

Existing law provides for the Certification of Domestic Abuse form.

New law adds stalking and cyberstalking to the Certification of Domestic Abuse form.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 9:3261.1(B)(2) and (6), (E)(intro. para.) and (2), and (H))