

SENATE BILL NO. 320

BY SENATORS MORRELL, BARROW AND COLOMB AND REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1844(G), relative to rights of crime victims and witnesses; to provide for the rights of family of crime victims; to provide for designated courtroom seating; to provide for separation of certain individuals; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:1844(G) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

* * *

G. The victim and witness in the court setting. The court shall provide, whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings which does not require victims, witnesses, or ~~homicide~~ victims' families to be in close proximity to the defendants, or their families or friends, and shall provide a secure waiting area in cases involving violent crimes. Upon request of a victim, victim's family, or witness, the court shall also provide, whenever possible, designated seating in a courtroom for victims, victims' families, and witnesses separate from defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants. The designated seating area should be positioned, whenever possible, in the courtroom in a way that does not require victims, victims' families, and witnesses to be in close

1 **proximity to defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants.**

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3 Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be referred to as "The Jason Fourmy
4 Act".

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____