

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/15/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1361

5 By: Representatives Speaks, *B. Smith, Baltz, Beck, Bentley, Brown, Burch, Dalby, Drown, Fortner,*
6 *Henderson, Lemons, Lundstrum, Payton, Rushing, Sorvillo, Sturch, Vaught, Watson*
7 *By: Senator Irvin*
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION
11 UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001; TO ADD
12 *EMOTIONAL* ABUSE AS A GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND
13 SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

18 TO AMEND THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE OR
19 SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE
20 ACT OF 2001; AND TO ADD *EMOTIONAL* ABUSE
21 AS A GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND SEPARATION
22 UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001.
23

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-11-802, concerning definitions under the*
28 *Covenant Marriage Act of 2001, is amended to add an additional subdivision to*
29 *read as follows:*

30 *(3) "Emotional abuse" means an ongoing pattern or cycle of*
31 *nonphysical behavior or attitude that controls, intimidates, subjugates,*
32 *demeans, punishes, or isolates another person by using degradation,*
33 *humiliation, or fear and that results in depression or overwhelming feelings*
34 *of worthlessness, hopelessness, and poor physical or mental health by the*
35 *victim.*
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-11-808(a)(3), concerning divorce or
2 separation, is amended to read as follows:

3 (3) The other spouse has emotionally, physically, or sexually
4 abused the spouse seeking the divorce or a child of one (1) of the spouses;

5
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-11-808(b)(3), concerning divorce or
7 separation, is amended to read as follows:

8 (3) The other spouse has emotionally, physically, or sexually
9 abused the spouse seeking the legal separation or divorce or a child of one
10 (1) of the spouses;

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12 /s/Speaks
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