

VICTIMS ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT (VESSA)

Definitions of Select Terms That Appear in the [VESSA Legislation](#)

Refer to Section of (820 ILCS 180/10) for a Complete List of Definitions

"Crime of violence" means any conduct proscribed by Articles 9, 11, 12, 26.5, 29D, and 33A of the Criminal Code of 2012 or a similar provision of the Criminal Code of 1961, in addition to conduct proscribed by Articles of the Criminal Code of 2012 referenced in other definitions in the VESSA legislation.

"Family or household member", for employees with a family or household member who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence, means a spouse or party to a civil union, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, or any other person related by blood or by present or prior marriage or civil union, other person who shares a relationship through a child, or any other individual whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship as determined by the employee, and persons jointly residing in the same household.

"Domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence" means domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

"Domestic violence" means abuse, as defined in Section 103 of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 by a family or household member, as defined in Section 103 of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986. Section 103 of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 defines the following:

- "Abuse" means physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation but does not include reasonable direction of a minor child by a parent or person in loco parentis.
- "Family or household members" include spouses, former spouses, parents, children, stepchildren and other persons related by blood or by present or prior marriage, persons who share or formerly shared a common dwelling, persons who have or allegedly have a child in common, persons who share or allegedly share a blood relationship through a child, persons who have or have had a dating or engagement relationship, persons with disabilities and their personal assistants, and caregivers as defined in Section 12-4.4a of the Criminal Code of 2012. For purposes of this paragraph, neither a casual acquaintanceship nor ordinary fraternization between 2 individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute a dating relationship. In the case of a high-risk adult with disabilities, "family or household members" include any person who has the responsibility for a high-risk adult as a result of a family relationship or who has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care of a high-risk adult with disabilities voluntarily, or by express or implied contract, or by court order.

"Gender violence" means:

- One or more acts of violence or aggression satisfying the elements of any criminal offense under the laws of this State that are committed, at least in part, on the basis of a person's actual or perceived sex or gender, regardless of whether the acts resulted in criminal charges, prosecution, or conviction; or
- A physical intrusion or physical invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions satisfying the elements of any criminal offense under the laws of this State, regardless of whether the intrusion or invasion resulted in criminal charges, prosecution, or conviction; or
- A threat of an act described above causing a realistic apprehension that the originator of the threat will commit the act.

"Sexual assault" means any conduct proscribed by:

- Article 11 of the Criminal Code of 2012 except Sections 11-35 and 11-45;

- Sections 12-13, 12-14, 12-14.1, 12-15, and 12-16 of the Criminal Code of 2012; or
- A similar provision of the Criminal Code of 1961.
- “Stalking” means any conduct proscribed by the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012 in Sections 12-7.3, 12-7.4, and 12-7.

