



PUERTO RICO ACT NO. 74 OF 2023 AMENDS ACT 54 ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Puerto Rico Act 74 of July 28, 2023 amends PR Act No. 54 of August 15, 1989, “Act for the Prevention and Intervention with Domestic Violence,” to add economic violence as a modality of prohibited domestic violence.

Act 74 defines economic violence as conduct exercised by an abuser with the object of undermining the victim’s present or future financial capacity, economic stability or housing security through threats, coercion, fraud, restriction or denial of access or use of accounts, assets, financial information, credit or identity cards or government assistance; hiding information related to payment of rent or mortgage, or forced eviction; the exercise of undue influence on a victim’s financial and economic decisions and behavior, or interference with a victim’s employment or business. Economic violence also includes the undue use of a victim’s economic resources, including money, assets and credit for the abuser’s own benefit, and certain other actions that affect the victim’s academic performance.

The Act adds several new protective orders that courts can issue, including orders to continue payment of rent or mortgage of the principal residence; orders to stop interfering with the petitioner’s work activity, including acts or statements aimed at damaging the professional reputation and stability of the petitioner; orders to share financial information about accounts or finances in which the petitioner may have an interest; orders to abstain from misusing petitioner’s economic resources; any other necessary order to comply with the purposes and public policy of the Act.

Please contact us if you would like to further discuss Act 74 and its potential impact on the protocol required of employers by PR Act No. 217 of September 29, 2006, the Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence Situations at the Workplace.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to one of our attorneys.

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