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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2017 Wisconsin Act 302**  
[2017 Assembly Bill 581]

**Venue Requirements for  
Domestic Abuse, Child Abuse,  
and Harassment Restraining  
Orders and Injunctions**

Generally, state law requires that a petitioner seeking a temporary restraining order and injunction (restraining order) must file the petition in the county in which the cause of action arose, the county in which the petitioner or the respondent resides, or the county in which the petitioner is temporarily living, depending on the type of restraining order sought.

2017 Wisconsin Act 302 allows a person that meets certain criteria to file a petition for a domestic abuse, child abuse, or harassment restraining order in any county within 100-mile radius of the county seat of the county in which the petitioner resides or is temporarily living. Specifically, the Act applies if the petitioner, the petitioner's spouse, a person with whom the petitioner is or was in a dating relationship, a person with whom the petitioner has a child in common, the petitioner's immediate family member, or the petitioner's household member is one of the following:

- A victim advocate, as defined in s. 905.045 (1) (e), Stats.
- An employee of the county court system.
- A legal professional practicing law, as defined in SCR 23.01.
- A current or former law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 102.475 (8) (c), Stats.

*Effective date:* April 18, 2018

*Prepared by:* Amber Otis, Staff Attorney

April 25, 2018

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.