

Coercive Control & 209A

Moving beyond physical violence

Massachusetts has expanded the definition of abuse in the context of G.L. c. 209A by including “coercive control” as a basis for obtaining an abuse prevention order. Massachusetts is the seventh state to have done so.

We explore the recent changes to the definition of coercive control under Chapter 209A. This session provides a detailed review of the revised statute’s language, tracing its legislative history to illuminate the journey to this pivotal update. Our faculty analyze how these changes may influence the interpretation of abuse in related statutes and gain insights into the guidelines for judicial practice concerning abuse prevention proceedings, particularly regarding coercive and controlling behaviors.

In addition to a comprehensive overview, the program compares Massachusetts’ new definition to similar statutes enacted in other states, allowing for a broader understanding of this legal landscape. Attendees also examine judicial responses to hypothetical scenarios involving coercive control, fostering practical application of the new framework. Finally, we address unresolved issues that may emerge in appellate court cases

Don’t miss this opportunity to stay informed and enhance your legal practice in the context of domestic abuse prevention.

Agenda

- Detailed Review of the Language of c. 209A
- Legislative History—How We Got Here
- Possible Effect of Change on Abuse Referenced in Other Statutes
- References to Coercive/Controlling Behaviors in the Guidelines for Judicial Practice: Abuse Prevention Proceedings
- Comparison of Statute to Those Passed in Other States
- Judicial Response to Hypothetical
- Issues that May Be Resolved by the Appellate Courts
- Caselaw From Other Jurisdictions Which Have Adopted Coercive Control

Faculty

Jamie A. Sabino, Esq., *MLRI, Boston*, Chair

Denise M. Fitzgerald, Esq., *Manager of Legal Research Services, Probate and Family Court Administrative Office, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Brigid E. Mitchell, Esq., *Brigid Mitchell, PC, Fall River*

Hon. Kimberly Moses, *Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Grace C. Roessler, Esq., *Mirick, O’Connell, DeMallie & Lougee LLP, Boston*

Dates & Location

Register at www.mcle.org

LIVE WEBCAST

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
3:00 pm–4:30 pm
Program # 2250389WBC

REBROADCAST

Thursday, December 19, 2024
10:00 am–11:30 am
Program # 2250389RB1

REBROADCAST

Monday, December 30, 2024
12:00 pm–1:30 pm
Program # 2250389RB2

ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Monday, December 30, 2024
Program # 2250389WBA

Tuition *(includes written materials)*

- \$160
- \$144.00 MCLE Members
- \$80.00 New Lawyers admitted to law practice within 5 years, Pending Admittees, Law Students, and Paralegals

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