



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

---

Legislative Document

No. 978

H.P. 733

House of Representatives, February 26, 2019

### An Act To Clarify Maine's Protection from Abuse Statutes

---

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Saco.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, HARNETT of Gardiner, RECKITT of South Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4002, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

3 **7. Social media.** "Social media" means an electronic medium or service through  
4 which users create, share and view user-generated content, including, but not limited to,  
5 videos, still photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text messages, e-mail,  
6 online service accounts and Internet website profiles and locations.

7 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §4007, sub-§1, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2  
8 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

9 D. Directing the defendant to refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with  
10 the plaintiff, including via social media;

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill clarifies that when a court directs a defendant in a protection from abuse  
13 case to refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with the plaintiff, this includes  
14 direct or indirect contact via social media, consistent with the ruling of the Maine  
15 Supreme Judicial Court in State v. Heffron, 2018 ME 102, 190 A.3d 232.