

HB 446 -- EX PARTE ORDERS OF PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Crawford

This bill specifies that a court may immediately issue an ex parte order of protection upon the filing of a verified petition and upon finding that the petition shows good cause, the respondent is not and has not been a party to a court action involving the custody of the child, and the respondent is not under the age of 17. Currently, ex parte orders may be issued for good cause shown, that no prior order regarding custody is pending or has been made, or that the respondent is under 17.

Additionally, a court must enter its order appointing a guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate to represent the child victim upon the entry of the ex parte order of protection only if the case is not resolved by consent, default, or dismissal at its initial hearing date.