

I was with my wife (who at that time was still my girlfriend) when she was forced into court eleven times to obtain and then maintain a protection order against a man who lives in Oregon, but raped her in another country. He immediately contested the order, and I took time off work to accompany her to every hearing. While we were in the courtroom the second time, every time a silhouette appeared in the hallway my stomach jumped into my throat. He did not show up. We thought we were in the clear.

He contested the ruling against him, under the grounds that he had not received notice of the hearing. He based his appeal on his statement that he could not receive mail at the mailing address he himself provided the court when he filed his motion to contest. He was successful in reopening his motion to contest the protection order.

He was an hour late to the scheduling hearing, where he knew a detective was waiting to collect his DNA. He had a note delivered to the judge reporting he was in a car accident. When he arrived minutes before the judge was through waiting, he still refused to give a DNA sample; this would prove to be yet another stalling method.

Several hearings later (after succeeding in his appeal) a bench warrant was placed for his DNA. He did not give it until minutes after a hearing would have started – all parties were present – when the judge advised his lawyer it would be in the [the alleged] rapist's best interests to request a rescheduling of the hearing. I had taken time off work to transport and be with [my now wife]; if children were involved – and fortunately none were – we would have also had to arrange child care, or potentially traumatize them by bringing them when there was no other option, at the predator's whim.

After nine months, the predator sent his lawyer to ask [my wife] to settle for a Civil No Contact Order. When she declined, he dropped his motion to contest. After nine months he dropped his motion to contest. Nine months. Eleven hearings [my wife and I attended] over nine months. The [alleged] rapist dropped his motion to contest after Nine Months; the length of a healthy pregnancy. His lawyer said the [alleged] rapist was dropping his motion because the year of protection was almost over anyways.

[My wife] refiled at the first available opportunity. The [alleged] rapist waited 28 out of the 30 days he was given to file his motion to contest. He filed his motion ON her birthday, which no reasonable person would argue he did not know, because it was on the paperwork.

[My wife] only had roughly two and a half months of confidence to go outside, during which she did not have to face a man who had covered her mouth and held her down until she passed out, and who later texted her that if she told anyone it would complicate HER life. He made good on that promise, and he did it using loopholes in both international jurisdictional boundaries, and Oregon State Law.

However many court hearings a manipulator is able to squeeze out in one vengeful quest to stamp out a Survivor's attempts to return to life – through the tactics I've personally witnessed,

and those which I have not – they would not be able to do it again so quickly if this bill becomes law. This bill will reduce docket hours consumed in pursuit of harassment and further victimization of Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking through the legal system, and conserve tax payer dollars in the process; and will make predators like the [alleged] rapist think twice before extending a fight with their Victim if doing so will extend the expiration date of the order.

The Peace of Mind Bill comes with no downsides. While it may not have prevented the eleven hearings that the [alleged] rapist forced [my wife] to attend just so she could feel safe going about her life, **it would have given her a full year to at least begin healing; a full year with Peace of Mind.**

Please vote in favor of SB816.

Glenn M. Gutman