

SENATE No. 1831

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to abuse prevention..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Chapter 209A of the Massachusetts General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking clause (7) in its entirety
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4 (7) arrest any person a law officer witnesses or has probable cause to believe has violated
5 a temporary or permanent vacate, restraining, or no-contact order of judgment issued pursuant to
6 section eighteen, thirty-four B or thirty-four C of chapter two hundred and eight, section thirty-
7 two of chapter two hundred and nine, section three, three B, three C, four or five of this chapter,
8 or sections fifteen or twenty of chapter two hundred and nine C or similar protection order issued
9 by another jurisdiction. When there are no vacate, restraining, or no-contact orders or judgments
10 in effect, arrest shall be the preferred response whenever an officer witnesses or has probable
11 cause to believe that:

12 (a) a person has committed a felony;

13 (b) a person has committed a misdemeanor involving abuse as defined in section one of
14 this chapter;

15 (c) a person has committed an assault and battery in violation of section thirteen A of
16 chapter two hundred and sixty-five;

17 (d) 2 or more persons have committed an offense listed in clauses (a) to (c), inclusive, or
18 if 2 or more persons make complaints to the officer, the officer shall attempt to determine who
19 was the primary aggressor and the preferred response shall be arrest of the primary aggressor and
20 not the arrest of the person who acted in a reasonable manner to protect or defend himself or
21 another family or household member from abuse.

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