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Law for the Penalization of Violence against Women

**NO.
8589**

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
DECREES:

CRIMINALIZATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

TITLE I

GENERAL PART

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1- Aims. The purpose of this law is to protect the rights of women victims of violence and to punish the forms of physical, psychological, sexual and patrimonial violence perpetrated against them, as a discriminatory practice based on gender, specifically in a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even when there is divorce, separation or breakup, in compliance with the obligations assumed by the State in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, casual or other analogous, even when there is divorce, separation or rupture, in compliance with the obligations contracted by the State in the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, Law 6968, of October 2, 1984, as well as in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, Law 7499, of May 2, 1995.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

[Article sheet](#)

Article 2- Scope of application. This law shall apply when the conducts typified as crimes are directed against a woman, in the context or on the occasion of a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even when there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or one foreseen with a greater penalty.

The scope of application of this law is extended to the cases contemplated in Article 21 bis, called "Femicide in other contexts", as well as to what is established in the second paragraph of Articles 22 "Abuse", 23 "Restriction of freedom of transit" and 27 "Threats against a woman" of this law.

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(Thus added the previous paragraph by Article 1° of the Law to establish the extended femicide, No. 10022 of August 23, 2021)

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

ARTICLE 3. Sources of interpretation

The sources of interpretation of this Law are all international human rights instruments in force in the country, which have a similar value to the Political Constitution, which, to the extent that they grant greater rights and guarantees to individuals, prevail over the Political Constitution. In particular, they shall be sources of interpretation of this Law:

- a) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Law No. 6968 of October 2, 1984.
- b) The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, Law No. 7499 of May 2, 1995.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 4. Crimes of public action

All crimes contemplated in this Law shall be of public action.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 5.- Obligations of persons in the public service

Those who, in the exercise of their functions, are obliged to take cognizance of situations of violence against women, in any of its forms, or to resolve them, must act promptly and effectively, respecting both the procedures and the human rights of the women affected; otherwise, they may incur in the crime of breach of duty.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 6.- Guarantee of performance of a duty

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A person who, in the exercise of a public function, files a formal complaint of any of the crimes of public action contained in this Law, even if the accused is not convicted, shall not incur in a crime, except when the crimes of libel and slanderous denunciation are committed.

Article sheet

Article 7.- Protection of the victims during the process. In order to protect the victims, the protection measures contemplated in Law No. 7586, Law against Domestic Violence, of April 10, 1996, as well as the necessary precautionary measures contemplated in Law No. 7594, Code of Criminal Procedure, of April 10, 1996, may be requested from the beginning of the judicial investigation.

Likewise, the judge may order the accused person to use the electronic device without prejudice to linking with the victim, in order to guarantee his protection.

(Thus amended by Article 7 of Law No. 9271 of September 30, 2014, "Electronic monitoring mechanisms in criminal matters").

Article sheet

ARTICLE 8. General aggravating circumstances of the crime

Perpetrating the act shall be general aggravating circumstances of the punishable conducts described in this Law, with the exception of the crime of femicide, and provided that they are not constitutive of the type:

- a) Against a woman who presents a sensory, physical or mental disability, total or partial, temporary or permanent.
- b) Against a woman over sixty-five years of age.
- c) Against a woman in a state of pregnancy or during the three months following childbirth.
- d) In the presence of the minor sons or daughters of the victim or perpetrator.
- e) With the concurrence of other persons, with force on things or by means of the use of weapons.
- f) With malice aforethought or overkill.
- g) For price, reward, promise of remuneration or advantage of any other nature.
- h) With the use of a high degree of scientific, professional or technological knowledge of the perpetrator in the commission of the crime.

i) With the use of animals.

The judge imposing the sentence shall increase by up to one third the sentence for the corresponding crime, when one or more aggravating circumstances are present.

Article sheet

SECTION I

Types of penalties

ARTICLE 9. Types of penalties for crimes

The penalties applicable to the crimes described in this Law shall

be: 1:

a) Prison.

Alternatives:

a) Weekend Detention.

b) Provision of public utility services.

c) Compliance with instructions.

d) Extraction.

Accessories:

a) Disqualification.

Article sheet

SECTION II

Definitions

ARTICLE 10. Principal penalty

The main penalty for the offenses set forth in this Law shall be imprisonment. The judge may opt for alternative penalties, if this does not place the life or integrity of the victim at risk or if the victim is prejudiced in the exercise of other rights. For this purpose, the trial court, prior to the replacement of the prison sentence, shall order another complete psychological and psychiatric examination, if it deems it necessary; it shall also hear the opinion of the victim. In case of replacement by discount of half of the sentence, the judge of execution of the sentence must hear the victim beforehand, if he/she can be found.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 11. Imposition and substitution of alternative penalties

When a primary person in matters of violence against women is sentenced to imprisonment for a term of less than three years, such sentence, in accordance with Article 9 of this Law, may be replaced by two alternative penalties of those indicated in this Law; one of them shall necessarily be the penalty of compliance with instructions, except that the penalty of extrañamiento shall be applied.

Also, at the request of the convicted person, alternative sentences may be applied, when such person is a primary offender of violence against women, has been sentenced to more than three years, and has discounted at least half of it. The alternative penalty may not exceed the amount of the main penalty imposed.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 12. Penalty of weekend detention

The penalty of weekend detention shall consist of a limitation of ambulatory freedom and shall be served in a penitentiary or rehabilitation center for periods corresponding to weekends, with a minimum duration of twenty-four hours and a maximum of forty-eight hours per week.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 13. Penalty for the provision of public utility services

The penalty of rendering services of public utility shall consist of the convicted person rendering services in the places and hours determined by the judge, in favor of establishments of public good or community utility, or social organizations, under the control of the authorities of such centers, in such a way that it does not violate the human rights of the convicted person, does not disturb his work activity or put the offended person or third parties at risk. The periods for serving this sentence shall be from eight to sixteen hours a week.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 14. Revocation of an alternative penalty

Failure to comply with an alternative penalty shall entitle the penalty enforcement judge to revoke it and order that the convicted person be sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of the sentence to be served.

Upon the commission of a new crime, the judge will have the power to revoke the alternative penalty, if the person is subsequently sentenced in other criminal cases for violence against women.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 15. Accessory penalties

The accessory penalties shall be applied together with the prison sentence or alternative penalties. The replacement of the principal penalty by the alternative penalties will not affect the fulfillment of the accessory penalty. The above will be carried out respecting, at all times, the right of the accused to due process of law in criminal matters.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 16. Penalty for compliance with instructions

The sentence of compliance with instructions shall consist of submission to a plan of conduct at liberty, which shall be established by the sentencing judge or by the judge of execution of the sentence and may contain the following instructions:

- a) Submit the person to an addiction treatment program for the control of the consumption of alcohol, narcotic or psychotropic substances or enervating drugs, when such addiction is related to the sanctioned conduct or its circumstances.

- b) Submit the person to a specialized program for offenders, oriented to the control of violent behaviors and to complete psychological and psychiatric treatment.

c) Residence prohibition: this penalty consists of the prohibition to reside in a specific place and to go to it or transit through it without judicial authorization. The judge will determine the place, which may be a neighborhood, a district, a canton or a province, taking into account the need for protection of the victims. This instruction may in no case take the form of a punishment of banishment.

d) Limitation on the use of weapons: shall consist of the prohibition to obtain permits to possess, register and carry weapons of any kind. The final sentence imposing this penalty must be communicated to the National Arsenal of the Ministry of Public Security, which will keep a file of such sentences, in order to consider any application for registration or carrying of firearms made by the sentenced person.

For the purposes of paragraphs a) and b) of this Article, the National Institute for Women and the Ministry of Justice shall send each year to the Supreme Court of Justice the list of accredited institutions, public and private, to which the competent judicial authority may refer for the enforcement of this penalty. The expenses incurred for this treatment shall be borne by the State, unless the convicted person has sufficient resources to cover them.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 17. Penalty of disqualification

The penalty of disqualification will produce the suspension or restriction to exercise one or several of the rights indicated in this article. In a reasoned sentence, the judge shall apply the pertinent penalties, in accordance with the crime committed.

The penalty of disqualification shall consist of:

- a) Impediment to exercise the public office, including those of popular election, profession, trade or activity on the occasion of the performance of which the crime was committed.
- b) Impediment to exercise guardianship, curatorship or judicial administration of property, when the crime has been committed taking advantage of these legal situations.

The penalty of disqualification may not be less than one year or more than twelve years.

The replacement of the principal penalty shall not affect the enforcement of the disqualification penalty.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 18. Rehabilitation

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A person sentenced to disqualification may be rehabilitated when half of the term of the disqualification has elapsed, if he has not violated the disqualification and if he has repaired the damage to the satisfaction of the victim.

When the disqualification has entailed the loss of a public office, rehabilitation shall not entail reinstatement in that office.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 19. Penalty of expulsion

When a foreigner is sentenced to a prison term of five years or less, in the sentence or during its execution, it may be replaced by the obligation to leave the national territory immediately and not to re-enter it for twice the time of the sentence. This penalty shall not be applied when it seriously harms the patrimonial interests of the offended person or when it makes the fulfillment of family duties impossible. The reentry to the country will imply the revocation of the replacement, without prejudice of other responsibilities. For immigration control purposes, the General Directorate of Immigration and Alien Affairs will keep a special index of this type of convicted persons.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 20. Institutional responsibilities in the execution of alternative penalties

The Ministry of Public Security will cooperate with the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice and Grace in the formulation and operationalization of a system for the execution of the alternative penalties contemplated in this Law.

Article sheet

TITLE II CRIMES

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL

VIOLENCE

Article 21- Femicide. A prison sentence of twenty to thirty-five years shall be imposed on anyone who kills a woman with whom he/she maintains or has maintained a relationship or partner relationship, whether http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?nValor1=1&nValue2=60183

marital, domestic partnership, or a union of

The conduct of a person who is in fact, dating, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or breakup, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime for which a greater penalty is foreseen.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 21 bis- Femicide in other contexts. A prison sentence of twenty to thirty-five years shall be imposed on whoever kills a woman of legal age or a minor, when one of the following circumstances is present:

- a) When the perpetrator has taken advantage of a relationship or bond of trust, friendship, kinship, authority or a relationship of power with the woman victim or occurs within the family relationships of consanguinity or affinity up to the third degree, whether or not they share the same domicile.
- b) When the perpetrator has a history of violence perpetrated against the female victim in the family, work, student, community or religious sphere, even if the facts have not been previously reported.
- c) When the perpetrator is a client, sexual exploiter, trafficker or pimp of the female victim.
- d) When the female victim had refused to establish or re-establish, with the perpetrator, a permanent or casual relationship or relationship, or to have any type of sexual contact.
- e) When the perpetrator commits the act to prepare, facilitate, consummate or conceal a sexual offense.
- f) When the perpetrator has committed the act using the female victim as an act of revenge, retaliation or debt collection in organized drug trafficking crimes or other related crimes.
- g) When the perpetrator has committed the act because of the participation, position or political activity of the woman victim.

(Thus added by Article 1° of the Law to establish the extended femicide, No. 10022 of August 23, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 22- Mistreatment. Anyone who by any means physically beats or mistreats a woman with whom he/she maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship,

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cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or breakup, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime foreseen with a greater penalty, without incapacitating for their usual occupations, shall be sentenced to imprisonment from three months to one year.

The same penalty shall be imposed when the abusive conduct is committed in any of the cases established in Article 21 bis of this law.

(Thus added the previous paragraph by Article 3 of the Law to establish the extended femicide, No. 10022 of August 23, 2021)

If the action results in an incapacity for his usual work of less than five days, he shall be sentenced to six months to one year of imprisonment, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime punishable by a greater penalty.

Whoever causes harm to the physical or health of a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple relationship, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or breakup, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime foreseen with a greater penalty that produces an incapacity for his usual occupations for a period of more than five days and up to one month, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of eight months to two years.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 23 - Restriction of freedom of transit. It shall be punishable with imprisonment from two to ten years, whoever, without profit motive, deprives or restricts the freedom of transit to a woman with whom he/she maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty.

The same penalty shall be imposed when the conducts are committed in any of the cases established in Article 21 bis of this law.

(Thus added the previous paragraph by Article 3 of the Law to establish the extended femicide, No. 10022 of August 23, 2021)

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

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ARTICLE 24. Penalty of disqualification

The perpetrator of the offenses contemplated in this chapter shall also be sentenced to disqualification for a term of one to twelve years.

[Article sheet](#)

CHAPTER II

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

Article 25 - Offenses to dignity. Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to two years, whoever offends by word in her dignity or decorum, to a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

[Article sheet](#)

Article 26 - Restriction of self-determination. A prison sentence of two to four years shall be imposed on anyone who, through the use of threats, violence, intimidation, blackmail, persecution or harassment, forces a woman with whom she maintains or has maintained a relationship or partnership, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or breakup, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or one with a greater penalty, to do, stop doing or tolerate something that she is not obliged to do.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

[Article sheet](#)

Article 27- Threats against a woman. Whoever threatens a woman, her family or a third person intimately related, with whom she maintains or has maintained a relationship or bond of partnership, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime foreseen with a greater penalty, shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to two years.

The same penalty shall be imposed when the conduct of threats is committed in any of the cases established in Article 21 bis of this law.

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(Thus added the previous paragraph by Article 3 of the Law to establish the extended femicide, No. 10022 of August 23, 2021)

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 28. Penalty of disqualification

The perpetrator of the offenses contemplated in this chapter shall also be sentenced to disqualification for a term of one to six years.

[Article sheet](#)

CHAPTER III

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Article 29- Rape against a woman. Whoever introduces the penis, orally, anally or vaginally, to a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or one with a greater penalty, against her will, shall be punished with imprisonment of twelve to eighteen years.

The same penalty shall be applied to anyone who introduces any object, animal or part of the body, vaginally or anally, to anyone who forces the victim to introduce, anally or vaginally, any part of the body or object to the perpetrator or to herself.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

[Article sheet](#)

Article 30- Abusive sexual conduct. A prison sentence of three to six years shall be imposed on anyone who forces a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple relationship, whether marital, de facto union, dating, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or breakup, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or a crime foreseen with a greater penalty, to endure during sexual intercourse acts that cause pain or humiliation, to perform or watch acts of exhibitionism, to watch or listen to pornographic material or to watch or listen to acts

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with sexual content.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 31- Sexual exploitation of a woman. Shall be punished with imprisonment from two to five years, whoever forces a woman with whom she maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty, to have sexual relations with third persons, without the purpose of profit.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

ARTICLE 32. Aggravated forms of sexual violence

The penalty for the crimes referred to in the three preceding articles shall be increased by up to one third, if the commission of the act results in any of the following consequences:

- a) Pregnancy of the offended.
- b) Contagion of a sexually transmitted disease to the offended party.
- c) Permanent psychological damage.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 33. Penalty of disqualification

The perpetrator of the offenses contemplated in this chapter shall also be sentenced to disqualification for a term of three to twelve years.

Article sheet

CHAPTER IV

PATRIMONIAL VIOLENCE

Article 34- Patrimonial subtraction. Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years, whoever illegitimately subtracts any property or value from the possession or patrimony of a woman with whom he/she maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or one foreseen with a greater penalty.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 35- Patrimonial damage. The person who, to the detriment of a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, dating, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is a divorce, separation or rupture, destroys, renders useless, makes disappear or damages an asset of his property, possession or possession, or an asset that is susceptible to being a gainful one, shall be punished with a prison sentence of three months to two years, provided that it does not constitute another crime punished more severely.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 36- Limitation to the exercise of the right of ownership. The person who prevents, limits or prohibits the use, enjoyment, administration, transformation, alienation or disposition of one or several goods that are part of the patrimony of the woman with whom she maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even when there is divorce, separation or rupture, shall be punished with imprisonment from eight months to three years, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or one foreseen with a greater penalty.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 37- Fraud of simulation on property susceptible of being community property. The person who simulates the performance of an act, contract, management, legal or judicial writing, on property susceptible of being community property, to the detriment of the rights of a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether matrimonial, de facto union or cohabitation, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty, shall be sentenced to imprisonment.

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from two months to three years, if the amount of the defrauded amount does not exceed ten times the base salary, and with imprisonment from six months to ten years, if the amount of the defrauded amount exceeds ten times the base salary.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 38- Distraction of profits from family economic activities. Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to one year, the person who unilaterally subtracts the profits derived from a family economic activity or disposes of them for his exclusive personal benefit and to the detriment of the rights of a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

Article sheet

Article 39- Economic exploitation of women. The person who, through the use of force, intimidation or coercion, makes himself be maintained, totally or partially, by a woman with whom he maintains or has maintained a relationship or couple bond, whether marital, de facto union, courtship, cohabitation, non-cohabitation, casual or other analogous, even if there is divorce, separation or rupture, provided that the conduct does not constitute a more serious crime or provided with a greater penalty, shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years.

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 9975 of May 14, 2021)

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ARTICLE 40. Penalty of disqualification

The perpetrator of the offenses contemplated in this chapter shall also be sentenced to disqualification for a term of one to six years.

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CHAPTER V

BREACH OF DUTY

Obstruction of access to justice.

The person who, in the exercise of a public function, promotes, by unlawful means, impunity or obstructs the police, judicial or administrative investigation for acts of physical, sexual, psychological or patrimonial violence committed to the detriment of a woman, shall be punished with a prison sentence of three months to three years and disqualification for a term of one to four years from the exercise of the public function.

[Article sheet](#)

ARTICLE 42. Aggravated breach of duties

The penalty of disqualification for the crime of breach of duty shall be from two to six years, if the breach occurs in a situation of risk to the personal integrity or economic need of the woman victim.

[Article sheet](#)

CHAPTER VI

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A

PROTECTION MEASURE

ARTICLE 43. Failure to comply with a protection measure

Whoever fails to comply with a protection measure issued by a competent authority, within a domestic violence proceeding in application of the Law against Domestic Violence, shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to two years.

[Article sheet](#)

CHAPTER VII

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 44. Application of the general part of the Criminal Code

For the purposes of this Law, the provisions of the general part of the Criminal Code shall apply, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Article 1 of this Law.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 45. Addition to the Code of Criminal Procedure

Add to Article 239 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, paragraph d), which shall read as

follows: "Article 239.

[...]

d) There is danger to the victim, the complainant or the witness. When the victim is at risk, the judge shall take into account the need to order this measure, especially in the framework of the investigation of crimes attributable to a person with whom the victim maintains or has maintained a marriage relationship, in a declared de facto union or not."

Article sheet

ARTICLE 46. Amendment to the Law against domestic violence

Modify the final paragraph of Article 3 of the Law against Domestic Violence. The text shall read as

follows: "Article 3.- Protective measures

[...]

Should one or more of these measures be breached in contravention of an order issued by the competent judicial authority, the latter shall testify pieces to the corresponding prosecutor's office, so that the investigation for the crime of breach of a protection measure may be initiated."

Article sheet

SOLE TRANSITORY.-

Within three months of the entry into force of this Law, public institutions and private organizations interested in developing specialized care programs for offenders,

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According to Article 18 of this Law, they must apply for accreditation before the National Women's Institute.

Effective as of its publication.

Given at the Presidency of the Republic, San José, on the twenty-fifth day of April two thousand seven.

Article sheet

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