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Attacking Process Servers Now a Felony *Governor Quinn signs bill into law*

(SPRINGFIELD, ILL) – Illinois today took an important step to protect those who ensure a defendant’s right to due process in the legal system when Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law a bill that increases the criminal penalty for assault and battery on a professional process server from a misdemeanor to a felony.

The Illinois Association of Professional Process Servers (ILAPPS) and the National Association of Professional Process Servers (NAPPS) aggressively pushed for the legislation after an alarming increase in attacks on process servers began occurring throughout the state.

“We applaud Governor Quinn and Illinois legislators for recognizing that professional process servers play an important role in the legal system, and that individuals who resort to violence when being served should be charged with felony assault,” said ILAPPS President Dan Schroeder.

Bill Clutter, who helped form ILAPPS in 2010, initiated the legislation when one of his agents was nearly choked to death by a man who refused to accept service. “The person who attacked my employee was charged with a simple misdemeanor, and that’s just not right,” said Clutter. “Armed with this law, our process servers will enjoy a higher level of protection and can possibly use this to diffuse a potentially dangerous encounter.”

NAPPS President Larry Yellon praised ILAPPS for showing strong leadership and support throughout the legislative process. “Professional process servers are committed to ensuring a person’s right to due process in the legal system and ILAPPS has worked diligently to make sure that if the unthinkable happens and process serving turns violent, an individual who attacks a process server faces the most serious charge possible,” he said.

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2-2-2-2-PROCESS SERVERS FELONY

Process can be served in Illinois by a sheriff, a private detective, registered employees of a detective agency, or a private party appointed by a judge. The new law protects all these individuals serving process in the state.

According to Clutter, the new legislation had wide support in the General Assembly. The bill, SB-2004, was sponsored by Senator Mike Jacobs (D-Moline). Co-sponsors included Sen. John G. Mulroe (D-Chicago), Sen. Antonio Muñoz (D-Chicago), Rep. Sidney H. Mathias (R-Arlington Heights), Rep. Kay Hatcher (R-Yorkville), Linda Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora).

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*The **Illinois Association of Professional Process Servers (ILAPPS)** was formed in 2010 to promote the safety and interest of process servers in Illinois. www.ilapps.com*

*NAPPS is a worldwide organization founded on the principles of professionalism and high ethical standards. **For more information about NAPPS, visit www.napps.org.***