

MICA'S LIST

ABUSIVE COERCIVE CONTROL BEHAVIOR EXAMPLES

Keep in mind that all of the following allegations were taken from Mica's verbal story, her diaries, journals, and writings she left behind regarding her husband John-Paul Miller (JP). Mr. Miller has not been arrested or charged with any crime related to Mica ever.

- a) **Isolating her from Family and Friends** – JP cut her off from her family and friends. Taking her contact list by confiscating her cell phone and hiding it from her. Telling her that her family is using her, are not good people and she should disassociate with them. Forbidding her to spend time with friends or questioning her incessantly about it so that the harassment outweighs the benefit of having friendships.
- b) **Depriving her of Basic Needs** – JP would not let her sleep, keeping her up at night and pulling the covers off her every time she dozed off. Throwing her clothes on the front lawn of their home. Waking her up and screaming at her incessantly to the point she had to leave to go to sleep in her car just to get some peace and rest.
- c) **Stalking/Tracking her whereabouts** – JP hired private investigator(s) to follow and track her and put multiple GPS tracking devices on her car. After they separated, he would follow or find her by GPS tracker and then he would drive by very slowly to make sure she saw him. He would walk into any place she was and go up to the table or area and make a comment or stand afar so she could see he was present.
- d) **Monitoring her Communications** – JP took her cellphone, went through her text messages, and call logs and claims he found 18 people had texted her that they were willing to listen to her if she wanted to talk about her husband (admitted in a recorded sermon). JP hacked into her email, iCloud account, and Facebook account and took over her identity.
- e) **Taking Control over Aspects of her life** – JP controlled who she could associate with, where she could go, and ALL aspects of her life as stated herein throughout. Took her driver's license, wallet, purse, car and house keys, and changed the locks on the doors.
- f) **Depriving Her of Support Services** – JP took her cell phone, her car, Apple watch, and convinced her she did "not need a lawyer." From the pulpit he gave a sermon and chastised her and any woman or man that texted his wife that had encouraged her to confide in them about her husband – the pastor. Thus, shutting down even a private confidant. She became afraid to speak out.

- g) **Expressing her Worthlessness** – JP told her that she was lazy and mentally ill, that her breasts were too small, that her family was ignorant, and they used her, and that she was not a good Christian woman if she questioned him or did not submit to him or keep all his dark secrets.
- h) **Humiliated, degraded and dehumanized her** – JP forced her to submit to humiliating sexual acts that disgusted and that hurt her. He would tell her she was mentally ill and have her hospitalized against her will. He put her down for having “ideas” or getting “inspired” by outside influences – telling her or others that she fell for anything – i.e. not smart. JP uploaded a semi-nude photo of his wife to the internet and later apologized in an email and attempted to minimize the damage by stating it was “only up for an hour.”
- i) **Prevented disclosure to authorities** – When Mica would threaten to expose JP, he would ramp up his abuse and tell her that if she did then she was not a Christian woman, not a dutiful wife, that she was acting like the judge – only God is the judge, and that she was required by the Bible to protect him and not disclose what he did to her. In fact, according to JP, the Bible says she is supposed to forgive him for his abuse and as a dutiful wife is to obey her husband (i.e. tolerate the abuse) and if she does not, she is sinning.
- j) **Financial Abuse** – JP removed her from bank accounts, and told her she did not know how to manage money but required her to pay her own car payment, car insurance, and medical bills.
- k) **Threats to Hurt her, her family, or himself** – If she hinted of exposing JP’s abuse, he threatened to commit suicide, or that he would jump off a bridge. He also made similar threats if she said she wanted to leave or divorce him, or if she refused to return to him after he threw her out. He threatened her family with gun violence. JP threatened to divorce her if she did not obey him and if she did not take the pills he gave to her.
- l) **Threats to child** - N/A
- m) **Threats to reveal or publish private information** – JP would make videos of her in private settings and then threaten to upload them if she did not do what he wanted. He convinced her to send him a topless picture meant only for the eyes of her husband, and he uploaded it to the internet when she did not comply with his demands.
- n) **Assault** - JP kept many guns and knives in their home, he punched holes in the walls during his fits of rage, and said he was “on the way – armed and ready” when he demanded she leave her sister’s and come home. JP kept her in a constant state of panic and fear that she would do something to “trigger” him.

- o) **Rape** – While she was hospitalized, JP demanded that she have sex with him while she lay in the hospital bed. JP forced her to perform sexual acts against her will and demanded that she watch him in sexual acts with others and forced her to sit still so others could touch her body against her will. JP told her and “preached on Sunday” that if she did not submit to his every request for sex in any manner he desired, then it was her fault if he got his needs fulfilled by another woman, or man.
- p) **Preventing Her from having transportation** – JP slashed a total of 5 of her car tires. He inserted razors in her tires – potential to cause her to wreck. JP took her vehicle that was titled in her name and paid for solely by her and hid it from her. In order to be able to get to work, she was forced to buy a second vehicle thus giving her 2 car payments and insurance costs. JP took her purse, driver’s license and her car keys to prevent her from leaving the house.
- q) **Interfering with her work** - When she worked at the church, JP would randomly fire her for “disobeying” him and then he would hire her back if she agreed to certain sexual acts or some other list of demands. He allowed or wrote letters to her on church letterhead demeaning her and putting her down. She had to leave the job that she really loved, the church, and take a job in the restaurant industry.

THE ABOVE TRACKS THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BILL (a-p) AND THE BELOW ARE ADDITIONAL BEHAVIORS THAT MAY BE ADDED TO THE BILL

- 1) **Emotional Abuse** – Everything stated above and below and even more that cannot be told due to the humiliation of it to the victim, Mica.
- 2) **Ignoring Requests and Commands to Leave her alone** – She asked him over and over to leave her alone, but he would not. After a police officer warned him to leave her alone, he trespassed into her gated community to leave a “present” or “gift” on the top of her car.
- 3) **Cruelty to her Dog** – JP threw Mica’s belongings out of the house and then demanded that she “come get her dog.” She could not keep the dog at the apartment she was staying in at the time and he knew that. When she did not immediately get the dog, he took the dog to her apartment and tied the little dog to the front door handle. He knew that she was not home, and he left the dog there. She had to leave where she was at the time to go home to get the dog. She found a home for the dog but when JP found out about her giving the dog to someone else, he went there and demanded the person give him the dog back.
- 4) **Destruction of Property** – JP intimidated her by damaging her property, breaking her things, giving away her things, or throwing them in the trash. He keyed her car, dented the hood with a dumbbell, backed it into something damaging the trunk, and slashed the tires and cut up the passenger seat.

- 5) **Destruction of Supporting Evidence** – JP actively sought out her journals and diaries where she kept logs of details of things that he did to her. He found and destroyed many journals and writings belonging to Mica which she intended to use as evidence to prove his destructive behaviors and abusive tactics. He also erased evidence, photos, videos, and writings that she kept on her iCloud and cellphone.
- 6) **Misuse of Legal Documents** – JP had an attorney write and send a “Cease and Desist” letter to Mica – demanding that she stop talking bad about JP and the church or suffer legal ramifications. JP had a lawyer draft a Post-nuptial Agreement and demanded that she sign it – giving up certain marital rights, before he would allow her to return to the marriage. JP used a lawyer to draft a separation “agreement” with one-sided terms and demanded that she sign it without the benefit of representation.
- 7) **Misuse of Law Enforcement**- JP called the police on her for no reason. He reported her for a crime she did not commit – making her subject to a police investigation which became unfounded and dropped. The officer allegedly told Mica it was abuse of law and a waste of police time.
- 8) **Misuse of Legal Process** – JP filed papers twice in Probate Court to have her involuntarily committed, claiming she was “manic” and asking for a mental health evaluation claiming she was a danger to herself. The Probate Judge disagreed. JP convinced her to drop her divorce case against him and then turned around and filed his own case in Family Court against her and then he dropped his suit shortly after filing.
- 9) **Adultery/Promiscuity** – JP cheated on her many times. He sent nude pictures of himself to other women. He paid a woman from church \$10,000 to destroy a sexually explicit video of himself. He flirted with other women. He sexted and dated other women. He paid for sex with both women and men – people not known as prostitutes.
- 10) **Stealing her identity** – JP took her cell phone and sent texts to her family and friends pretending to be her. JP sent emails and texts from her accounts to church members and her family pretending to be her “admitting” she was doing bad things – his attempt to disgrace her name.
- 11) **Cyber/Technology Abuse** – JP got access to her technology, changed her passwords, took over her accounts, and hacked her social media, her iCloud, cell phone, and email. He posted on her social media feed and then tore it down and locked her out of the account. He would text her about details of where she was, who she was with, and what she was wearing or ask questions that only someone who was there would know to ask.

- 12) **Medical Abuse** – JP “declared” her bi-polar, forced her to take lithium (a prescription of his own), monitored whether she complied with taking the pills, and forcefully gave her steroid (testosterone) shots in her arms, thighs, and buttocks. JP would make her swallow pills in his presence and if he thought she did not take them, he would cut them up and put them in her food (his own admission).
- 13) **Spiritual Abuse** – JP knew how much she adored and loved Jesus and the teachings in the bible and that she wanted to be a good Christian– so he used it against her. When she wanted to divorce, he told her God hates divorce and it is a sin. When he would do terrible, terrible things to her he would tell her that God said she cannot judge him and as a good Christian she is to forgive him and even more so as his wife.
- 14) **Church Abuse** – JP weaponized the church against her and often used the pulpit to give “sermons” that were really messages to Mica to correct her ways, or were directives to her, or sometimes used to demean her by name to the congregation. She felt strongly about tithing to the church, but JP refused to tithe with his own church for about four months, but he encouraged the congregation to do so, and this was very upsetting to her. He wrote letters to her on church letterhead for the purpose of harassment.
- 15) **Phone Calls to Everyone** – JP found out she went to another church – he called the pastor to “explain” her issues. JP found out she got back in touch with a female friend – he called her to “see what was going on.” JP called and texted her family. JP called her work. JP called her roommate, her Godmother. JP called members of the congregation. JP called her lawyer after she passed away to “tell his side” of the story and to ask for Mica’s retainer money to be refunded to him.
- 16) **Physical Abuse without marks** - JP finger-punched her in the throat, he held her up against the wall by her throat, slapped a drink out of her hand, and while out in public together he snatched her plate of food from her and threw it.

Ward Law Firm

LAW FIRM OF REGINA B. WARD, LLC

Regina B. Ward, Esq. ♦

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♦ O: 843-488-9273 ♦

YOUR SINCEREST ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IS REQUESTED

June 5, 2024

VIA U.S. MAIL & SC LEGISLATURE ONLINE MESSAGE PORTAL

Senate Judiciary Committee
ATTN: Chairman Senator Luke A. Rankin
101 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201

COPY

Re: Coercive Control Bill – to be Renamed, Mica’s Law
House Bill: H.5271 – Session 123 (February 20, 2020)
House Bill: H.3621 – Session 124 (January 12, 2021)
Senate Bill: S.927 – Session 124 (December 7, 2021)

Dear Chairman Senator Rankin:

As you may be aware, news of Mica Miller’s death has swept the nation and world by storm. Mica was a beautiful thirty (30) year old young Christian woman, when on April 27, 2024, she died from an alleged self-inflicted fatal gunshot wound. She was employed at her husband’s church, Solid Rock Ministries, Inc. in Myrtle Beach, as the worship leader, youth director, graphic designer, mission’s ambassador, media director, and a myriad of other duties on behalf of the church.

In journals and writings from Mica, she alleged that her husband, “Pastor” John-Paul Miller, emotionally abused her and abused her physically, spiritually, financially, and sexually. According to Mica, Mr. Miller began this process by isolating her from her family/friends, removed her name from bank accounts, took her cellphone which deprived her of contact numbers and a way to call, “stole” her car and hid it from her, repeatedly put her down, degraded her, threatened to reveal (and did reveal) private information and semi-nude photos of her, had her investigated for a false crime, and misused the legal process to have her committed for mental evaluations. Some believe that Mica took her life as a result of these alleged abuses.

Keep in mind that Mr. Miller has never been arrested for domestic violence or for any other crime against his wife during their entire marriage. Mr. Miller asserts his actions were all attempts to “protect her,” as he contends, she was in a bi-polar mania from being off her bi-polar medication.

Now I encourage you to put this letter to the side for a moment and read the attached, "Mica's List" and then pick up reading from here. Mica's List is a small excerpt of the many, many terrible things Mica alleges her husband did to her.

If you followed my suggestion and read Mica's List, you should be reeling right now from disbelief and wonder how in the world anyone could do all those things to a person and not be arrested or held accountable in some kind of way. But in the State of South Carolina, we still have archaic Domestic Violence laws which recognize abuse ONLY as physical. So, if the police are called, they look for black eyes, scratches, bruises, and other physical proof of a crime, and upon finding none then no one is arrested, and the police leave as they have no law to refer to for the psychological crime of coercive control. Victims of psychological abuse suffer immeasurable damage impacting self-confidence, self-worth, and every facet of their everyday life. What married victims of psychological abuse are told, "this is a domestic problem – you need to go to a family court for help." Uhhmmm – the abuser takes away phones, money, and transportation!

SHOCKING NEWS: I was astounded to discover that **FOUR YEARS AGO**, on February 20, 2020, former Representative McLainToole introduced in the House of Representatives Bill H.5271 – the Coercive Control Bill. The Bill's purpose is to amend the South Carolina Law by adding Section 16-25-130, to Title 16-Crimes and Offenses, Chapter 25-Domestic Violence, to codify the offense of "*Coercive Control*" over another person. That is exactly what Mica's List is about – the many behaviors exemplifying coercive control over a person's liberty. That Bill was immediately (that same day) referred to the Committee on Judiciary – where it "died."

THREE YEARS AGO, on January 12, 2021, Representative Robert J. "RJ" May, III, introduced the same Coercive Control Bill, now known as H.3621. Again, on the same day it was read to the House, promptly referred to the Committee on Judiciary – where it "died" for a second time.

TWO & ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, on December 7, 2021, Senator Katrina Frye Shealy, introduced the same Coercive Control Bill, now known as S.927. With it finally being introduced to the Senate, one would think.... it's got a chance now. On the same day it was read to the Senate, it was promptly referred to the Senate's Committee on Judiciary – where it again "died" for a third time.

Now, go back and re-read Mica's List, and notice that it follows the proposed law, which clearly indicates that had the bill been signed into law years ago, there is a possibility that a warrant would have been issued for John-Paul Miller's arrest. Upon his arrest, he would have been under a NO CONTACT Order, which could have protected Mica – that arrest and no contact order could have provided that small window she needed to escape his alleged abuse. And finally, assuming her allegations were

proven, he may have been convicted of Coercive Control, a felony, and sentenced to jail – up to ten years.

We do not know if Mica took her life simply because she was manic or whether she possibly died as a way to escape the alleged abuse. What we do know is that Coercive Control is a real form of abuse that was recognized by Evan Stark and, codified by other states, including Hawaii, California, and Connecticut.

Based on the forgoing, I **DEMAND** that this bill be reviewed expeditiously by both the Senate and House Committees on the Judiciary, and I ask that you sponsor the bill and request that the name of the Bill be amended to – “Mica’s Law.”

The clear goal of this bill is to avoid any person from being psychologically and systematically abused. Furthermore, for those that commit this form of abuse to be held accountable. Most importantly, if the bill is passed, it has the potential to save an immeasurable number of victims from psychological abuse.

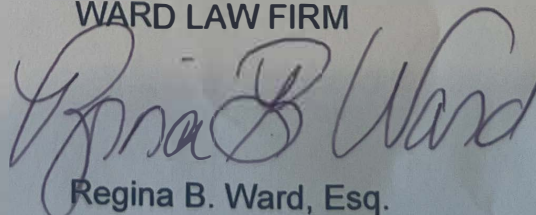
I recognize Bill S.927 needs more work, that is evident by the SIXTEEN additional factors that I found missing from the Bill and added to Mica’s List. I also believe that the bill needs to include mandatory ankle monitors as part of the bond requirements. I believe that it would be prudent to require that a portion of the fines, fees, and ankle monitor costs be allocated to a Domestic Violence fund to be used to provide free legal representation to victims of domestic violence. The funds collected could pay for the salaries of one attorney in every county to represent the victims in court. I am sure the General Assembly will see other improvements needed as well. If I can be of service in any way to get Mica’s Law codified, please do not hesitate to call me.

I am hopeful that the citizens of South Carolina can count on you to support, and be a voice for, Mica’s Law and am confident you will see how imperative this is for the protection of victims of abuse.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

WARD LAW FIRM

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Regina B. Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name.

Regina B. Ward, Esq.

RBW/jr

Enclosures: Bill S.927
Mica’s List

South Carolina General Assembly
124th Session, 2021-2022

S. 927

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Shealy

Document Path: I:\s-res\ks\045coer.kmm.ks.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3621

Introduced in the Senate on December 7, 2021

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Coercive control

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
12/7/2021	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 14)
12/7/2021	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 14)

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

12/7/2021

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9

A BILL

10

11 TO AMEND ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 25, TITLE 16 OF THE 1976
12 CODE, RELATING TO GENERAL PROVISIONS
13 CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, BY ADDING
14 SECTION 16-25-130 TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF
15 COERCIVE CONTROL OVER ANOTHER PERSON, TO
16 PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF BEHAVIOR AND
17 EVIDENCE THAT MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT THE
18 OFFENSE, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY, AND TO DEFINE
19 NECESSARY TERMS.

20

21 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South
22 Carolina:

23

24 SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 25, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is
25 amended by adding:

26

27 "Section 16-25-130. (A) For the purposes of this section:

28 (1) 'Coercive behavior' means an act or pattern of acts of
29 assault, threats, humiliation, manipulation, intimidation, or other
30 abuse, including emotional abuse, that is used to harm, punish, or
31 frighten another person by fraudulent representations.

32 (2) 'Controlling behavior' means a range of acts designed to
33 make a person subordinate or dependent by isolating the person
34 from sources of support, exploiting the person's resources and
35 capacities for personal gain, depriving the person of the means
36 needed for independence, resistance, or escape, or regulating the
37 person's everyday behavior.

38 (3) 'Personally connected' means persons who are:

39 (a) engaged in an intimate personal relationship or have
40 previously been in an intimate personal relationship; or

41 (b) household members as defined in Section 16-25-10.

1 (B)(1) When two persons are personally connected, it is unlawful
2 for one person to repeatedly or continuously engage in a course of
3 behavior toward the other person that is coercive or controlling and
4 that results in the person fearing, on at least two occasions, that
5 violence will be used against them or that results in their mental
6 distress such that their day-to-day activities suffer substantial
7 adverse effects. A person who violates the provisions of this section
8 is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more
9 than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or
10 both.

11 (2) The offense of coercive control of another person may
12 include, but is not limited to, the following types of behavior:

13 (a) isolating a person from their friends and family;

14 (b) depriving a person of basic needs;

15 (c) monitoring a person's time;

16 (d) monitoring a person via online communication tools or
17 using spyware;

18 (e) taking control over aspects of a person's everyday life,
19 including where the person may go, who the person may see, what
20 a person may wear, and when a person may sleep;

21 (f) depriving a person access to support services, including
22 medical services;

23 (g) repeatedly insulting a person, including expressing the
24 person's worthlessness;

25 (h) enforcing rules and activities that humiliate, degrade, or
26 dehumanize the person;

27 (i) forcing a person to take part in criminal activity,
28 including shoplifting and neglect or abuse of children, to encourage
29 the person's self-blame and prevent disclosure to authorities;

30 (j) financial abuse, including control of finances and only
31 allowing a person a punitive allowance;

32 (k) threats to hurt or kill;

33 (l) threats to a child;

34 (m) threats to reveal or publish private information or extort
35 the person or a member of the person's family in retaliation by legal
36 or other means;

37 (n) assault;

38 (o) rape; or

39 (p) preventing a person from having access to transport or
40 from working.

41 (3) Evidence of coercive control of another person may
42 include, but is not limited to, the following:

43 (a) copies of emails, phone records, or text messages;

- 1 (b) evidence of abuse over the Internet, digital technology,
- 2 or social media platforms;
- 3 (c) evidence of assault;
- 4 (d) photographs of injuries, particularly defensive injuries
- 5 to forearms, latent upper arm grabs, scalp bruising, or clumps of hair
- 6 missing;
- 7 (e) 911 tapes or transcripts;
- 8 (f) body-worn camera footage;
- 9 (g) lifestyle and household evidence, including at-scene
- 10 photographic evidence;
- 11 (h) records of interaction with support services or law
- 12 enforcement, including records of interaction prior to the current
- 13 incident or investigation;
- 14 (i) medical records;
- 15 (j) witness testimony, including testimony from the family
- 16 and friends, regarding the effect and impact of isolation of the
- 17 person from friends or family, or other local witnesses with relevant
- 18 observations of the person;
- 19 (k) bank records to show financial control;
- 20 (l) previous threats made to children or other family
- 21 members;
- 22 (m) diary kept by the person;
- 23 (n) the person's account of the situation to law
- 24 enforcement; or
- 25 (o) evidence of isolation such as lack of contact between
- 26 family and friends, person withdrawing from activities such as clubs
- 27 and other life events including weddings and funerals, and the
- 28 person exerting control accompanying the person to medical
- 29 appointments.

30 (C) The provisions of this section do not apply to actions taken
31 pursuant to a legal arrangement granting one person power or
32 authority over another person including, but not limited to, power of
33 attorney arrangements, legal guardians of the property or person as
34 provided by law, parental control of a minor child, or cases in which
35 the person asserting control over another person believed the actions
36 were in the best interests of the person and the actions were
37 objectively reasonable under the circumstances. Under no
38 circumstances is it a reasonable defense if the actions caused another
39 person to fear that violence would be used against them.”

40
41 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

42 ----XX----

Change does not happen overnight. Raise your voice and speak about the issues that matter. Keep pushing for progress, even when it feels challenging. Contact your local representatives and demand accountability! This is how you can show your support:

1. Go to [South Carolina Legislature Online \(scstatehouse.gov\)](http://scstatehouse.gov)
2. Go to "**FIND LEGISLATORS**" at the bottom of your page. Type in your address.
3. Click your identified South Carolina State Senator and your identified South Carolina State Representative for their address and contact information.
4. Use the enclosed template letter. You will need to fill in the appropriate fields on the template with the date, your respective Legislator's name and address, and sign each letter. Send a letter to **BOTH** your State Representative and your State Senator.

Date: _____

Senate Judiciary Committee
ATTN: Senator _____

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Dear Senator _____:

As a resident of _____ county, I am writing to inform you that I am supportive of the Coercive Control Bill to be passed into law. I ask that you sponsor the bill and request that the name of the Bill be amended to – “Mica’s Law.”

I am hopeful that I can count on your support and to be a voice for Mica’s Law and for all victims subjected to this form of abuse. I am confident you will see how important this is for the protection of victims of abuse.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Date: _____

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LUNA COURT REPORTERS & VIDEO