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S.F. No. 4120 – Order for protection; notification to custodians of minor children

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Under current law, a family or household member may petition for an order for protection (OFP) against another family or household member to prevent further abuse. Except for limited circumstances, most minors are not able to petition for an OFP. The OFP process requires notice of the petition, hearing, orders, and any changes to orders to be served on the petitioner and respondent. **S.F. 4120** requires that those same notices be provided to the custodian of the petitioner’s minor children.

This bill defines a “custodian” as any person other than the petitioner or respondent who is under a legal obligation to provide care and support for the petitioner’s minor child or who is providing care and support for the minor child.

This bill requires that the OFP petition state the names and addresses of the petitioner’s minor children and permits the court to make the addresses of the petitioner’s minor children inaccessible to the public.