

Summary of Legislation

2026



Civil Law

Juliann Jenson | Juliann.Jenson@coleg.gov

During the 2026 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly considered several measures related to civil law. Specifically, the legislature passed bills that made changes to civil asset forfeiture, conversion therapy, protection orders, name changes, social media content, uniform laws, and law firms

Civil Asset Forfeiture

Colorado's civil asset forfeiture laws allowed law enforcement officers to seize cash, vehicles, or other property suspected of being connected to criminal activity, even when the owner had not been charged with a crime. With bipartisan support, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 26-1250](#) a civil asset forfeiture reform bill to:

- close a loophole that permitted the forfeiture of property before a criminal conviction;
- require courts to pause forfeitures prior to convictions; and
- provide attorney representation to low-income forfeiture defendants, funded by redirecting some forfeiture proceeds from law enforcement.

Conversion Therapy

Conversion therapy is a practice that attempts to change an individual's sexual

orientation or gender identity. The [United States Supreme Court](#) recently overturned a Colorado law banning conversion therapy, ruling that it violated the First Amendment free speech rights. [House Bill 26-1322](#) responds to the parameters outlined in the ruling and allows people harmed by conversion therapy to seek new legal actions. The bill specifies that injured persons are allowed to sue licensed mental health providers for malpractice and damages. It also removes the standard two-year statute of limitations for these claims and permits wrongful death suits on behalf of deceased victims within five years.

Civil Protection Orders

Lawmakers heard testimony about cross-jurisdiction cooperation between military and civilian domestic violence protection orders to close security gaps and improve victim safety. In response, [Senate Bill 26-085](#) requires peace officers investigating a suspected domestic violence incident to determine whether either party is an active-duty service member and whether a military protection order is in effect. If a military protection order exists, the officer must notify the issuing military law enforcement agency. The bill also requires judges and magistrates to consider any existing military protection orders when deciding whether to issue a temporary civil protection order.

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Juveniles

Two bills provided civil protections to young people who changed their name or profited from social media.

Name Changes

Minors change their names for many reasons, including religion, culture, divorce, adoption, and gender transitions, among others. Prior to the passage of [Senate Bill 26-018](#), these name changes were considered public information, and minors who made legal name changes were easily identifiable. To better protect a minor's privacy, the bill requires a court to automatically suppress name change records for individuals under 18, except in cases where a felony conviction exists.

Social Media

Colorado legislators passed a bill to ensure children who appear in monetized online content, or "kidfluencers," receive compensation for their work, along with other protections. [House Bill 26-1058](#) requires parents and guardians to establish a trust fund for children younger than 18 who appear in digital content. The bill also allows the children, upon adulthood, to remove content and sue for damages if a content creator or platform fails to comply.

Uniform Laws

The Colorado General Assembly regularly adopts uniform legislation recommended by the Uniform Law Commission to align

practices among states. Three such laws passed in 2026 that addressed communal property, mortgage modifications, and mergers.

[House Bill 26-1189](#) made updates to the "Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act", which governs the disposition of community property (property shared equally between a married couple) when a spouse dies. The bill clarifies that this act applies to spouses regardless of whether the deceased individual was domiciled in the state.

[House Bill 26-1089](#) adopts the Uniform Mortgage Modifications Act. This act clarifies that certain loan modifications, such as interest rate changes, remain secured by the mortgage and do not affect the mortgage's priority over junior or intervening liens.

The Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act requires companies undergoing mergers that already trigger federal reporting to submit their pre-merger materials to the state Attorney General.

[House Bill 26-1427](#) modifies these pre-merger filing requirements with the Attorney General, including changes to timelines, security, confidentiality, and enforcement provisions.

Nonlawyer Ownership of Law Firms

Colorado lawmakers heard testimony about the growing role of private equity firms in the legal industry, including the use of alternative business structures (ABS) that allow nonlawyers to own or manage law

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firms. To address these concerns, [House Bill 26-1421](#) broadly prohibits nonlawyer ownership of law firms, fee-sharing with nonlawyers, and ABS that economically participate in legal services. The bill also allows clients and competing law firms to take private legal action against allegedly noncompliant ABS.