

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to special protections in judicial
3 proceedings; amending s. 92.55, F.S.; requiring a pro
4 se defendant to question certain victims and witnesses
5 through standby counsel at any trial, hearing, or
6 deposition; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 **Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 92.55,**
11 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

12 92.55 Special protections in proceedings involving victim
13 or witness under 18, person with intellectual disability, or
14 sexual offense victim.—

15 (7) Upon motion of any party, upon motion of a parent,
16 guardian, attorney, guardian ad litem, or other advocate
17 appointed by the court under s. 914.17 for a victim or witness
18 under the age of 18, a person who has an intellectual
19 disability, or a sexual offense victim or witness, or upon its
20 own motion, the court shall require a pro se defendant to
21 present, ask, or in any way communicate questions to such
22 person, victim, or witness through standby counsel at any trial,
23 hearing, or deposition.

24 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.