

Updates to Emergency Order #10

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR ALL CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS

Effective Monday, July 13, 2020

In accordance with the Washington Supreme Court's Chief Justice's Public Health Emergency Amended Order #25700-B-607, the following procedures will be in place for ALL petitions for civil protection orders, including civil standby/renewals/modifications/terminations (civil protection orders include domestic violence, sexual assault, anti-harassment, vulnerable adult, anti-stalking, and extreme risk protection orders) until further notice:

- Requesting an Initial Order:
 - For intimate partner relationships, (spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common or persons who have or did have a dating relationship), you may petition in person at the County City Building (930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 110 – you are required to wear a mask in the DV Office and in the Courtroom), at the Family Justice Center (253) 798-4166 or the YWCA (253) 383-2593. You may also telephone the Pierce County Superior Court Clerk's Office 253-798-7455, mail or email in Petitions. The DVPO Kiosk is also available at the Lakewood Police Station (9401 Lakewood Drive SW, Lakewood).
 - For non-intimate partner relationships, you may petition in person at the County City Building (930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 110 – you are required to wear a mask in the DV Office and in the Courtroom).
 - Petitioner must provide valid mailing address and/or email address prior to the petition being submitted. The mailing address and email address shall be kept confidential unless the petitioner consents to its release.
 - Once the paperwork has been submitted, the petitioner will be asked to remain in the hallway outside of Courtroom 105 (while practicing social distancing) for their matter to be heard by the Commissioner.
 - If the temporary order is granted, or if no temporary order is granted but a hearing is scheduled, the hearing date shall be 14 days from the date of the petition, unless upon request of either party the commissioner determines good cause to schedule an earlier or later date.
 - Copies of the petition, notice of hearing, additional statements, and any temporary order for protection ("initial pleadings") shall be electronically transmitted to the petitioner for service. If that is not possible, court or clerk staff shall mail two copies of the initial pleadings to the petitioner.
 - Service of the initial pleadings on the respondent may be done by personal service or by mail. Service by mail is authorized for all civil protection orders without requiring two (2) attempts at personal service or other due diligence. Permission to serve by mail or publication requires a court order. A completed proof of service form shall be timely electronically filed by the petitioner.
 - All self-represented persons shall be enrolled in the Clerk's full LINX access subscription (information will be provided by Clerk when petition is completed). 253-798-7455

- Either party may still seek a civil standby order prior to the hearing but shall follow the procedures above.
- No live streaming of any hearings will occur.

- Final Protection Order Hearings.
 - Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders (VAPOs) shall be heard by Zoom. VAPO participants shall receive a Zoom email invitation prior to the hearing.
 - All hearings for final protection orders (“court hearing”) shall be via Courtcall (a Company called CourtCall helps set up the call to the court). The parties shall arrange Court Call (a Company called CourtCall helps set up the call to the court) directly 1-888-882-6878 a week in advance of the court hearing to schedule the appearance. There is currently no cost for self-represented parties for Court Call.
 - Copies of final orders and orders reissuing the temporary order or rescheduling the hearing will be emailed to the petitioner and the respondent (if they participate). The petitioner and respondent must provide the Clerk’s Office with valid email addresses. The petitioner’s email address shall be kept confidential.

 - No live streaming of any hearings will occur.

Except as provided in these emergency procedures, all other provisions of the relevant statutes (RCW Chapters 26.50, 10.14, 74.34, 7.09, 7.92 and 7.94) shall remain in effect but applied liberally to reflect the reasoning in the Supreme Court’s Amended Order.