KING COUNTY COVID-19: Remote Protection Order Filing Process

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency requiring significant changes to the justice system, including decreasing in-person contact as much as possible. **KCPAO is there to help. All petitions for Civil Protection Orders can now be done remotely.**

• **Don't come to court in person!** It is contrary to the Governor's order, bad for public health, and not the way to access court services during the pandemic.
• Courts are still open (virtually) to ensure people at risk can get the protection they need. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Extreme Risk, Vulnerable Adult and Anti-Harassment Protection Orders, as well as Weapons Compliance Review calendars, will be heard virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.
• Below are the ways you can access the court from home. **Don't come to court in person!**

Initial Filing Process for ALL Civil Orders of Protection

Forms are available at www.protectionorder.org

For ALL civil protection orders, email completed paperwork to **DJA.DVPO@kingcounty.gov**. (Yes, this is the correct email to submit paperwork for ALL civil protection orders – email address includes 'DV', but email address can be used for all orders.)

Upon receipt of paperwork the King County Superior Court Clerks office will process that paperwork for a hearing with a Judicial Officer by phone. Petitioners must provide DJA.DVPO@kingcounty.gov a good phone number and email where the Judicial Officer can reach the petitioner for the temporary hearing and where to send certified copies of any signed emergency orders.

After receiving the temporary order, parties should contact the Family Law confirmations desk (information below) to let them know where they can be reached for the full protection order hearing. Respondents will also be provided information letting them know that they are able to appear by phone.

In Seattle: Email FamilyLawStaffSeattle@KingCounty.gov or call (206) 477- 1523
In Kent: Email 1523.FamilyLawStaffMRJC@KingCounty.gov or call (206) 477-2750

Additional Statewide Protection Order Resources: www.protectionorder.org

Sexual Assault Protection Orders

Advocates are available to assist with remote filing: Sexual Assault Protection Orders

Advocates are available to assist with remote filing:

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center: 24hr Resource Line 1-888-99 Voice

Additional Resources available: www.kcsarc.org

Free Legal Confidential Consultation: Sexual Violence Law Center

Available Monday – Friday 844-991-7852 (SVLC)

Additional Resources available: www.svlawcenter.org

Domestic Violence Protection Orders

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Protection Order Advocacy Program (POAP) is committed to supporting domestic violence victims who are seeking a Domestic Violence Protection Order. Our advocacy services, and access to the courts, can now be done by email and telephone in response to COVID-19 pandemic. All petitioners interested in filing for a Domestic Violence Protection Order who need help from an advocate are encouraged to call or email the POAP offices:

Seattle: 206-477-1103 PAOPOAPSEA@kingcounty.gov
Kent: 206-477-3758 PAOPOAPMRJC@kingcounty.gov

Legal Atoms

POAP is now piloting a partnership with www.LegalAtoms.com. This easy to use tool has been developed to help a petitioner prepare their Domestic Violence Protection Order petition online using a simple step-by-step format. By using LegalAtoms.com petitioners can do their petition online using this secure tool. Petitioners can then share their petition electronically with POAP advocates for review, consultation, and safety planning, if desired. This free tool is easy to use and designed with the needs of the petitioner in mind and can be used on any cell phone, laptop or desktop computer. To get started, or for assistance with www.LegalAtoms.com, contact protectionorder@kingcounty.gov

Domestic Violence and Firearms:

If the person you are filing against has firearms, you can ask the court, as part of your Temporary Order, to order the respondent to immediately turn over their firearms to law enforcement. This order is called an "Order to Surrender Weapons" and can be entered with a Temporary Protection Order (if needed) or at the time the court enters the one-year order (or "full order"). If the person you are filing against (respondent) is an intimate partner (current or former spouse, child in common, current or former dating partner or resided together as intimate partners), then the court **must** enter an Order to Surrender Weapons and require that they be immediately turned in to law enforcement, if the court enters a one year order. Please discuss whether this is something you need to have included in the Temporary Protection Order when you are working with the Protection Order Advocacy Program Advocates. If the court grants this type of order, you will receive a call from the Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit to follow up with you about the weapons and to help support their safe removal.

Any respondent subject to an Order to Surrender Weapons is ordered to immediately surrender any firearms, dangerous weapons or concealed pistol licenses to law enforcement. They will also be prohibited from purchasing or possessing any other firearms or applying for a concealed pistol license while the order is in effect. The court will order them to appear for a "Weapons Compliance Review hearing" shortly after the full hearing date, to prove to the court that they have followed the court's order.

Weapons Compliance Review Hearings

ALL Protection Order and Weapons Compliance Review hearings will be conducted by phone. Do not come to court in person! Below is a quick checklist to help respondents better understand how to comply with the Order to Surrender Weapons and how to participate in telephone Weapons Compliance Review Hearing.

In order to appear at your scheduled hearing, please contact the court at the following email address *at least one day before your hearing*: weapons-surrender@kingcounty.gov
Please be sure to include in your email the following information:

- ✓ Your full name
- ✓ Date of your review hearing (this can be found in the upper right-hand corner of the Order to Surrender Weapons Order)
- ✓ The case name (for example: Smith vs. Smith)
- ✓ Your case number (this can be found in the upper right-hand corner of the Order to Surrender Weapons, for example: 19-2-12345-6)
- ✓ **A good phone number where you can be reached between 8:30am and noon on the day of your review hearing**

For more information about how to be in compliance with the Order to Surrender Weapons, please click on or search for the following link through your web browser: https://bit.ly/3d9gHE4 **or scan the QR code with your smart phone:**

Court forms mentioned in the video, including the Declaration of Non-Surrender form (WPF All Cases 02-070) and the Proof of Surrender form (WPF All Cases 02-060), can be found at https://tinyurl.com/w7ou6ed