



Court Process Workgroup: Victim Access Subgroup
Wednesday, September 28, 2022
8:00 AM- 9:00 AM
Zoom

Members Present: Judge Stoney (GDC), Chair, Nora Mahoney (LSNV, co-chair), Judge Jonathan Frieden (JDRDC), Judge Hollaran (GDC), Susan Madsen (GDC Clerk of Court), Sandi Guerrero (JDRDC), Angela Yeboah (DSVS / DVAC), Renee Carroll-Grate (DSVS / DVAC), Tina Spurlock (JDRDC), Mabel Prine, JCADA), Fazia Deen (Dar Al Hijrah), Ayyan Ali (DSVS / DVAC), Bolivia Bustamante (TWC), Stephanie Romonchuk, (FCPD-VSD), Cannon Han (DVI API, TA Provider), David Steib (Ayuda, TA Provider), Brittany Vera (DSVS),

Guests present: 2nd Lt. Ryan Tasse, Sheriff's Office,

I. Welcome and Electronic Script

Nora Mahoney read the script required for electronic meetings. Mabel Prine seconded a motion to ensure the voices of all members were audible to the other group members. Mabel Prine also moved to verify that the state of emergency makes it unsafe to meet in person and that video conferencing technology should be utilized to conduct the meeting. 2ND Lt. Ryan Tasse seconded the motion and it passed without objection. Mabel Prine made a third motion that all matters discussed in the meeting are necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Committee's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Judge Stoney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

II. Old business- Focus Groups

Brittany Vera shared that the focus groups for Spanish speaking clients because of the difficulty finding participants. The Focus Group team will be regrouping to find a path forward.

Nora Mahoney suggested creating a survey to get feedback directly from advocates who work specifically with language specific or ethnic-specific organizations. Fazia Deen asked whether the Arabic focus groups would still move forward. Her organization would be willing to help if it did. Brittany shared that was up for discussion with the Focus Group team.

III. Protective Order Process Discussion

2ND Lieutenant Ryan Tassej from the Civil Enforcement Unit of the Sheriff's Office presented the information about the service of the preliminary protective orders (PPOs) and final protective orders (POs).

The information was formatted as frequently asked questions and includes specific information about out of jurisdiction service of a PPO or PO and how the Sheriff's Office attempts to gather more information about the last known location of the Respondent when there is not an address for the individual.

Judge Stoney asked about the service of the final PO when the Respondent has been served with the PPO but did not appear in court. Judge Stoney clarified that the Respondent could still be held accountable for the final PO, when the final PO is an order of the court. Lt. Tassej clarified that in his view, the Respondent had to be served with the PO for a violation to be a chargeable offense. Some Respondents will go out of their way to avoid service if they know an order is coming.

Nora Mahoney suggested adding language to clarify that if a Respondent cannot be served with the PPO or PO in their jurisdiction, the person can be served anywhere in the country if they are stopped by law enforcement and the appropriate checks are run through national databases, which communicate with the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN).

Judge Stoney also clarified that the firearms certification is part of what is served with the protective order.

Angela Yeboah suggested adding language to make it clear to victims that they must check to ensure the PPO or PO has been served and will not be notified by the Sheriff's Office.

Brittany acknowledged that while this current process is focused on Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, service is a category that will be transferrable to the General District Court Process.

IV. Next categories to develop

The group agreed that the next categories to focus on would be "Steps between PPO and PO hearing" since Nora had already started a draft of the document. Nora suggested having a DV advocate and Domestic Relations staff would also be helpful. Nora Mahoney, Mable Prine, Tina Spurlock, and Ayaan Ali would be on the group.

The Firearm Surrender Process would also be one of the next categories to focus on for the next meeting. Angela Yeboah sits on the CEDV Firearms Surrender

Workgroup and will help lead this team. Judge Sotelo or Judge Petit, who are also on that workgroup, would be ideal participants, as would the JDR Clerk of Court. Judge Stoney shared that both subgroups of the Court Process Workgroup would come together for a meeting in January and asked whether it makes sense to have the whole process complete by that meeting.

Brittany shared that several categories still remain to complete, including the final PO hearing, how to file a violation, how to modify a PO, and how to appeal. It won't be feasible to have those categories finished by January, including the revisions that may be needed. Brittany did not think the group needed to have all the categories completed by January for the full meeting.

V. Adjourn

Next meeting: DEC. 15 @ 8AM

Next meeting: December 15, 2022 at 8am via Zoom