

Victim Access Workgroup Agenda

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

8:00-9:00am

Fairfax County Courthouse, Room 201.1

Meeting Participants: Judge Stoney (chair), Nora Mahoney (co-chair), Tina Spurlock, Judge Frieden, Sandra Guerrero, Kellie Cook, Stephanie Romonchuk, Kacey Kirkland, Bolivia Bustamante

Online Participants: Ayaan Ali, Cannon Han

I. Welcome

Judge Stoney opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Kellie Cook, from Domestic and Sexual Violence Service, Advocacy Services replaced Renee Carroll Grate on the workgroup.

II. Protective Order Process: Content Revisions

The workgroup reviewed the section on Emergency Protective Orders (EPOs) in detail and made several changes. The group identified a concern about the magistrate's office sending petitioners back and forth between locations, and the group agreed further discussion and clarification on the process might be warranted by reaching out to the Chief Magistrate for clarification. The group then briefly reviewed the section on appealing the protective order.

Concerns related to the magistrate also arose around language access. The current process as it is being developed states that if a petitioner does not speak English, and interpreter will be provided, but that Magistrates cannot write out the complaint/petition for someone. Bolivia Bustamante reported that she has had clients who are illiterate and cannot write it out. Her experience is that people are told that they must come back with someone who can write it for them, and then they never come back.

III. Next Steps

The group agreed it would be important to clarify the language access process with the Chief Magistrate, either by inviting them to a future meeting or having a separate meeting.

The group will continue to revise the sections of the protective order process and have them reviewed by the next meeting to move as efficiently as possible in the next meeting.

IV. Adjourn

Judge Stoney adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

8:00 am

Virtual via Zoom