

Victim Access Workgroup Agenda

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

8:00-9:00am

Zoom

Members present: Judge Stoney (chair), Nora Mahoney (co-chair), Judge Frieden, Bolivia Bustamante, Kellie Cook, Fazia Deen, Sandra Guerrero Perez, Kacey Kirkland, Stephanie Romonchuk, Pam Sejas, Tina Spurlock, and Brittany Vera

I. Welcome

Judge Stoney welcomed participants to the meeting and explained the group would be reviewing more sections of the protective order process to shorten the content.

II. Protective Order Process: Content Revisions

The group reviewed Section 3: Language Access Rights, Section 2: What is a protective order, Section 5a: How to file a preliminary protective order, and Section 6: Steps between a preliminary protective order and final protective order hearing.

Brittany Vera stated she would reach out to the magistrate separately regarding the concern about illiterate clients filing emergency protective orders and obtain clarification on any accommodations that may need to be explained in the section on emergency protective orders.

The group made several revisions to the documents and stopped halfway through Section 6 in the paragraphs discussing evidence. Brittany stated she would send a specific section of text with challenging out for the group to share edits to shorten and clarify the section. There was discussion about whether this section about evidence contradicted the previous statements made elsewhere about not using protective orders as a vehicle to obtain custody and child support.

III. Next Steps

The group will edit additional sections at the next meeting, including the how to file a Next-Friend Protective order, Service of the Protective Order, and the Protective Order Hearing.

IV. Adjourn

Nora Mahoney adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will take place in person. Brittany will notify the group once reservation of the Admin training room has been confirmed.

Next meeting:
Tuesday, January 19, 2024
8:00am-9:00am
Fairfax County Courthouse
Room 201.1
(Pending confirmation)