

New legislation has been enacted that changes the law governing the matters in the Domestic Violence Division (DVD). The new law changes the Intrafamily Offenses Act of 2008, to the Intrafamily Offenses and Anti- Stalking Orders Amendment Act of 2020. In response to the new law, the DVD has made changes to the Civil Protection Order (CPO) forms and has created a new Anti-Stalking Order case type (ASO).

The forms will be available on the Probno.Net/Dccourts website but will not be available immediately. To access all updated DVD court forms, the public can visit the DC Courts Website <http://www.dccourts.gov/superior-court/domestic-violence-division>. Additionally, parties can submit the paperwork by emailing it to DVD@dcsc.gov. Finally, if anyone has any questions about the new changes, they can submit inquiries by emailing DVD@dcsc.gov or calling the Clerk's Office at 202-879-0157. Parties can also contact legal service providers (attached) for specific advice and legal information.

The changes to the CPO forms include:

- ❖ New groups of people can request Civil Protection Orders, including: children of intimate partners; persons being pursued for a relationship; and victims of trafficking.
- ❖ Narrows who is eligible to file a Petition to Request a CPO, by changing the coverage for persons living together in a shared residence to persons who have lived together within the past year and have a close relationship (more than mere acquaintances).
- ❖ Eliminates ability for common partners and stalking victims (not involving the pursuit of a romantic relationship) to request a CPO.
- ❖ Adds a requirement in Temporary Protection Orders (TPO) for respondents to be ordered to relinquish firearms.
- ❖ Addresses protections for petitioner's animals.
- ❖ Requires that the notice of hearing inform respondents that if they fail to attend the hearing the court may issue an order that may last up to two years.

In addition to form changes, the law also changes the following procedures in the DVD Clerk's Office for CPOs:

- ❖ Increases the age at which a minor child can be considered a respondent and for a petitioner to have additional rights to inform the CPO and ASO proceedings from 12 to 13.
- ❖ Expands cases in which youth 13-15 can file for a CPO on their own, by including cases of sexual assault (which do not involve a "significant relationship") and sex trafficking cases.
- ❖ Allows the court to extend temporary protection orders (TPOs) up to 28 days for good cause.
- ❖ Allows the court to issue an initial CPO to last up to two years and gives the court the authority and discretion to extend CPOs for 2 years or more depending on the factual circumstances.

The DVD has created a new Anti-Stalking Order (ASO) case type and developed a series of corresponding forms. Qualified filers will be able to obtain a same day Temporary Anti-Stalking Order (TASO) when they file a Petition for an Anti-Stalking Order.

- ❖ A person, 16 years of age or older who is a victim of stalking, with at least one occasion occurring within 90 days of filing, can request an ASO.
- ❖ Parties can request a Temporary Anti-Stalking Order the same day they submit the filing.