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Florida's Clerks of Court Promote Protective Services During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Each year, Clerks of Court help tens of thousands of vulnerable individuals suffering from harmful or threatening interactions apply for injunctions for protection. In observance of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC) is highlighting the valuable services provided year-round by Clerks of Court to assist those facing domestic violence issues.

“As Clerks of Court, we are often the first resource for individuals who make the courageous decision to come to the courthouse and seek help from domestic violence,” said **Doug Chorvat, Jr., CGCIO, CPM, 2025–26 FCCC President and Hernando County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller**. “We see the impact of these troubling situations firsthand, and we take our responsibility to support survivors very seriously. If you or someone you know needs help with an injunction for protection or restraining order, please reach out to your local Clerk’s office for assistance.”

Florida’s Clerks of Court receive and process injunctions for protection, also commonly known as restraining orders. These essential services are available at no cost to recipients of the service. In 2024, Clerks throughout the state processed **78,131** applications for those in need of restraining orders for domestic violence, dating violence, repeat violence, sexual violence and stalking. Clerks of Court are dedicated to having professionals available at courthouses and annex locations to help vulnerable individuals receive the protective services they are seeking.

Last year, Clerks of Court, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, launched the statewide Hope Card Program in response to the passing of [CS/CS/CS/SB 86 - Hope Cards for Persons Issued Orders of Protection](#) in the Florida Legislature. This program offers individuals who have been issued a final injunction for protection in Florida the opportunity to apply for a free, standardized “Hope Card” that can be used to verify with law enforcement that they are covered by a protective court order. For further details on the Hope Card Program, please visit www.FLClerks.com/HopeCardProgram or contact your local Clerk of Court’s office.

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If you or someone you know is currently experiencing domestic violence, know the important steps you can take:

- If you are in immediate danger, always call 9-1-1 for assistance from law enforcement.
- Contact your local Clerk's office to start the process of filing for an injunction or restraining order.
- Use the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1119 for support, advocacy and assistance finding shelter.

Visit www.flclerks.com/DVAM to locate your local Clerk of Court's office and learn more about the support and services available.

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Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC) is a statewide, nonprofit member association composed of Florida's Clerks of the Circuit Court and Comptrollers. FCCC provides local government support services, technical assistance and accreditation opportunities for all members of the association. For more information, visit www.FLClerks.com.