

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

GENERAL ORDER: 2020 D 20

SUBJECT: Procedures to Request an Emergency Order of Protection in Response to General Administrative Order No. 2020-01

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

In the interest of public safety, all proceedings related to Petitions for Orders of Protection in cases with an accompanying Domestic Relations case in the Domestic Relations Division shall be conducted remotely by either video or telephonic conference.

1. Domestic Relations litigants who seek an *ex parte* Emergency Order of Protection during this period of reduced court operations shall email a (1) Petition for Order of Protection, (2) Summons, and (3) draft Order of Protection¹ to RVP.DomesticRelations@cookcountyil.gov. Movants shall list their Domestic Relations case number (i.e. 2020 D 123) on all attachments.
2. All attachments shall be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County electronically or, for self-represented litigants who qualify for an e-filing exemption, a completed Certification for Exemption from E-Filing² shall also be attached to the email.

Upon receipt of a Certification for Exemption from E-Filing, court staff shall forward the Certification and all attachments to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County for processing and the Clerk shall accept the same as if they were hand-delivered by the movant.

3. The subject line of the email shall indicate that the movant is submitting a Petition for an Emergency Order of Protection and shall state the case name, case number, i.e.:

“Petition for EOP, Doe v. Doe, 2020 D 123”

4. Court staff shall forward all attachments to the Emergency Judge for review and shall, by the end of the following business day, at the discretion of the Emergency Judge email the movant either (1) details on how and when to access a remote hearing or (2) any resulting orders if the judge determines a hearing is not necessary.

¹ Statewide standardized versions of each of these documents, **along with plain-language instructions on how to complete them**, can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/StandardOPForms> or at www.illinoiscourts.gov.

² Available at <https://tinyurl.com/EFilingExemption> or at www.illinoiscourts.gov.

5. If a self-represented litigant does not have access to a computer or is otherwise unable to send an email with all required attachments, a member of the Agencies listed below³ or an attorney providing limited assistance may submit the movant's paperwork via email on their behalf. Any such email shall
 - a. Designate that it is being submitted by a Remote Order of Protection Assistance Project or attorney volunteer, that the volunteer is not the movant's attorney, and that the movant has authorized the volunteer to submit this email on their behalf,
 - b. Either indicate that the volunteer will communicate all responses from the court to the movant or provide an email address and phone number for the movant, and
 - c. Copy the movant on the email as a recipient if they have an email address.
6. Any movant who requires the assistance of an interpreter shall request interpreter services for a particular language in their email. Whenever an interpreter is requested, court staff shall arrange for the interpreter's remote participation.
7. All attachments shall be accepted by court staff and the Clerk of the Circuit Court even if the movant was unable sign them. If the movant submits an unsigned document, they are attesting to accuracy of all information contained in the unsigned filing and may be asked to verify the same under oath. Any such attestation shall bear the same responsibilities and consequences as affixing a signature to a document under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 137 and all related statutes and court rules.
8. Any Order of Protection granted as the result of this process shall be processed by the Court for entry into LEADS.

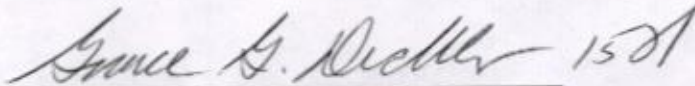
Dated the 15th day of April 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

Presiding Judge
Grace G. Dickler

APR 15 2020

Circuit Court - 1521

ENTERED:


HON. GRACE G. DICKLER
Presiding Judge
Domestic Relations Division

³ All self-represented movants are encouraged to contact the Remote Order of Protection Assistance Project at 312-229-6020 or Sarah's Inn, Metro Family Services and Family Rescue hotline at 708-689-3422 for free help filling out and submitting all required paperwork.