



AOC Launches Protective Order Registry

Registry Will Assist Judges and Law Enforcement in Domestic Violence Cases

SAN FRANCISCO—The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has launched the California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) to start providing judges and law enforcement officers with complete and accessible information on restraining and protective orders throughout the state.

The registry, which is now operating in three counties, enables users to search for and retrieve electronic images of restraining and protective orders from all participating courts so they can see precisely the conditions and written notes contained on those orders.

“In most counties, judges do not have access to statewide information about existing protective orders. The registry will empower judges to make more informed decisions and avoid issuing conflicting orders,” said Christine Patton, AOC Regional Administrative Director. “It will also improve public safety and the safety of law enforcement officers by providing access to more accurate, complete and up-to-date information about protective orders.”

The first three courts to use the registry are in Marin, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. It is anticipated that by the end of December 2010, a total of 20 trial courts will be using the registry. Over the next few years, the remaining 38 trial courts in California will be added to the program.

The project resulted from a 2006 recommendation of the Judicial Council’s Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force which found that trial courts lacked the ability to share information about restraining and protective orders with each other and with law enforcement. Currently, law enforcement uses the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) which stores data entered from protective orders, but does not include the images of the actual orders issued by a court. Most trial courts do not have access to CLETS, so judges often do not have access to statewide information about protective orders. By contrast, the registry can produce images of the actual order, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and orders can be searched by an individual’s name, case number or other criteria across county lines. In addition, the registry will be part of the California Courts Case Management System, which is in the final testing stage and is scheduled to be deployed to the first three courts next year.

The project is being funded by a \$1 million grant from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) which will cover project management expenses and scanning hardware for the first 20 courts. The total costs of the project through December 2010 are estimated to be \$2.1 million.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.