

Changes to the process for Domestic Violence Protective Orders in the Anchorage Court (April 3, 2020)

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What changes are there about domestic violence protective order cases during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Anchorage court has made some changes to protect public and staff health during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include allowing people to:

- file petitions by email
- use an e-signature if you can't print and scan
- not use a notary if you can't get your signature notarized
- participate in hearings by telephone, until at least May 31, 2020
- limit the number of people you bring to a hearing as support if you come in-person.

What forms do I use to petition for a protective order?

See the options to [request a domestic violence protective order](#).

How do I file the petition?

You can file:

- by email: ANC_dv@akcourts.us (8:00 a.m. – 8 pm Monday – Friday, 12 pm – 8 pm Saturday and Sunday and holidays), or
- by fax: (907)265-0104, or
- at the Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street.

How do I sign if I don't have a printer and am filing by email?

If you are unable to print and sign the petition, and are filing by email, you may e-sign by typing “s/ [insert your name]”. This will look like:

I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that all the information I provided in this petition is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.	
<u>04/17/2020</u> Date	<u>/s/ Suzy Q Petitioner</u> Petitioner's Signature
	<u>Suzy Q. Petitioner</u> Print Name

What if I can't get my signature notarized?

If you do not have access to a notary, fill out [Self-Certification \(No Notary Available\)](#), TF-835 and include the completed form with your petition.

Can I fill out the petition at the courthouse?

You can pick up the petition at the domestic violence office in the Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street. If you feel safe filling out the petition outside the courthouse that may be a good idea during the COVID-19 pandemic. But if you feel safer, you can fill out the petition in the courthouse.

Can I participate in the hearing by phone?

You may participate by phone until at least May 31, 2020. Make sure to include your phone number and email address if it is safe to contact for the court to contact you by those methods.

Short-term hearing

The court may call the petitioner for the hearing on the request for a short-term protective order. Sometimes the judge may rule on the petition without a hearing. In some cases, the judge may want the petitioner to appear in person at the courthouse.

Long-term hearing

Both the petitioner and the respondent, and any attorneys, should participate by phone in the hearing on the request for a long-term protective orders if possible by calling:

- 1-800-768-2983, access code: 2640015#.

This will connect you to courtroom B-15 at the Boney Courthouse. Remember to mute your phone until your case is called.

How to I provide evidence if I am on the phone?

Before your hearing, file all exhibits like photos or copies of text messages with the Notice of Filing, SHC-1605 [Word](#) | [PDF](#) that includes the case name and case number. You can file by email, fax (907) 265-0104, U.S. mail, or in-person.

If you realize during the hearing that there is important evidence to provide, ask the judge if you can send it by email or text at that time. If the judge agrees, he or she will give you an email address to send the evidence in during the hearing for consideration.

Can I be in-person for the hearing if I want?

While the court is encouraging people to participate by phone to avoid waiting in the courthouse for the hearing during this COVID-19 pandemic, you can come in person if you think that is the safest way to participate.

Can I bring someone to the court for support?

The court system is trying to minimize the number of people in public spaces so is asking petitioners who come in-person to have no more than one person as support. The clerk or judge may allow additional people who are witnesses or family members into the office lobby and/or the courtroom.

How many people may be in the waiting area before the hearing?

If you come in-person, no more than 10 people in total can be in the waiting area to protect the health and safety of everyone.