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KING COUNTY
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CASE #: 25-0-12050-6 SEA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR KING COUNTY

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING PETITIONS FOR CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER PROCESSES	No. 25-0-12050-6 **Amended Order Regarding the Court Procedures re: Petitions for Civil Protection Orders**

This matter comes before the Court related to implementation of the Civil Protection Order statute, RCW 7.105. et seq. including the staggered implementation deadlines and the statutory modifications between 2022 and present. The purpose of this order is to realize the stated policy in RCW 7.105 "to help ensure that protection orders and corresponding court processes are more easily accessible to all litigants, particularly parties who may experience higher barriers to accessing justice." **This order should be interpreted liberally to achieve the statutory goal.** The statutory changes effectively combined several statutes into one statute and expanded the authority of statutory commissioners to preside over civil protection orders. To effectuate the purposes of the statute, new court rules and processes are needed and will be developed into King County Local Rules and considered by the court during the regular rule adoption process. However, while the process for changes in local court rules proceeds, a general order is necessary to assist litigants in navigating these proceedings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective July 31, 2025, based on the implementation of RCW 7.105 et. seq. and its revisions, and the administrative decisions of this court related to the management of these cases, and the need to communicate with the public and potential litigants

about how these cases will be handled in King County Superior Court, the following provisions will apply to these cases when filed. These provisions will also be developed as a proposed local rule and considered by this court via regular rule development processes.

The court ORDERS the following:

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This order applies to all petitions for civil protection orders brought pursuant to RCW 7.105.

(1) Mandatory Forms. Unless otherwise stated herein, or in existing court rules or statutes, the most current mandatory local and state forms shall be used. For a complete list of available forms, please consult https://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/?fa=forms.contribute&formID=142. Forms are also available from the King County Clerk's Office, the King County Clerk's website, and the Protection Order Advocate's Office.

(2) Temporary Civil Protection Orders. Applications for temporary civil protection orders shall be presented in the Ex Parte and Probate Department. The process for temporary orders is governed by LCR 40.1(b)(1)(C) except as it conflicts with this order. All hearings on final civil protection orders, except vulnerable adult protection orders, shall be set by the clerk or judicial officer on the Civil Protection Order Calendar.

(3) Return Hearing. Every Temporary Order of Protection or Order of Modification entered without notice shall set a return hearing on the Civil Protection Order Calendar in the family law department on such notice as prescribed in Chapter 7.105 RCW. This order supersedes the language in LCR 40.1(b)(1)(C)(i) regarding working copies and how the hearing will be held in the family law department. For all return hearings in the family law department, copies of any writings or other documentary evidence provided to the court must be provided to the other party's attorney. If the other party is not represented, the copies should be handed to either courtroom staff or a domestic violence advocate in the courtroom with a request that they provide the copies to the other party.

(4) Evidence. Evidence may be submitted in the following formats: written, photographic, and audio/visual recordings. All evidence provided to the court must be provided to the other party's attorney. If the other party is not represented, the copies should be delivered to the address that the party has provided for service.

(1) Written Submissions. Written submissions (including photographs, emails, and text messages) shall be filed into the court file in accordance with LCR 5.

(A) Summary Required. Contents of voluminous writings (text messages and emails included), recordings, or photographs which cannot conveniently be examined in court shall be presented in the form of a chart, summary, or calculation, with the originals available for examination pursuant to ER 1006.

(B) No Re-Filed Submissions. No party may file separately, or as an attachment or exhibit to a new document, a document already filed as part of the court record. New pleadings should refer to already filed documents when appropriate, including in the reference the date of the referenced filing, or the name and date of the referenced pleading, to which it was attached.

(C) Limitations. Written submissions shall not exceed the total number and length set forth below:

Document	Max # Submissions	Max # Pages
Declaration of a party in support of or opposition to Petition (this may be in addition to the Petition or a part of the Petition)	1	No maximum
Declaration of non-party witness in support of or opposition to Petition. *Note: general character references are disfavored	3	3
Reply Declaration of moving party	1	3
Sealed Confidential Source Document	No limit; must be related to supporting declaration	No limit; must be related to supporting declaration
Exhibits to Declaration All exhibits must be labeled for identification	No limit; must be related to supporting declaration	No limit; must be related to supporting declaration

(D) Professional Assessments, Reports, and Evaluations. Declarations, affidavits, and reports from professional evaluators, mental health providers, treatment providers, supervised visitation providers, appraisers, and realtors, do not count toward written submission limits but must be properly authenticated and filed as separate documents, under seal if required.

(E) Failure to Comply with Written Submission Limitations. If a filing party exceeds the page limits set forth in this rule, the court may strike the pleadings, continue the hearing, and/or impose other terms at its discretion .

(2) Multimedia (Audio/Visual Recordings) Submissions. Multi-media submissions must be submitted in accordance with The King County Superior Court Clerk's Office current digital exhibit protocol.

(A) Summary and Time Stamp Required. Audio and video evidence shall be accompanied by a chart or written document that summarizes the content of each exhibit. The summary must indicate the time stamp (to the nearest second) that is relevant to the hearing for all files longer than 30 seconds.

(B) Limitations. Multi-media submissions shall not exceed the total number and length set forth below:

Submission	Max # Minutes
Audio	30 mins
Video	30 mins

(C) Failure to Comply with Multi-Media Submission Requirements. If a filing party fails to comply with the requirements set forth in this rule, the court may elect to not review the submission, continue the hearing, and/or impose other terms at its discretion.

(D) Form of Proposed Orders. The Petitioner and Respondent shall each provide a proposed order(s). The proposed order must be provided by the day of the hearing. Self-represented parties may mail or deliver proposed orders to the respective mail room (2D in Kent, C203 in Seattle) marking each submission as follows: "Attention Civil Protection Order. Hearing date (insert)."

(E) Timing. Responsive materials must be filed no later than noon 4 judicial days prior to the hearing. Any reply must be filed no later than noon 2 judicial days prior to the hearing.

(F) Hearings. Each side is allowed 5 minutes for oral argument, including rebuttal, unless otherwise authorized by the court.

B. PETITIONS FOR A VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION ORDER

(1) Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders. Applications for a temporary vulnerable protection order are heard in the Ex Parte and Probate Department. LCR 40.1(b)(1)(C)

(2) Return Hearings. Hearings on final vulnerable adult protection orders are governed by LCR 40.1(b)(1)(C)(ii). This order does not change the process for these return hearings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 3rd day, of December 2025

_____/s/_____

JUDGE KETU SHAH

Presiding Judge, King County Superior Court

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Judicial Electronic Signature Page

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Date Signed:	12/03/2025

Ketu Shah

Judge: Ketu Shah

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