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## **November 3, 2023**

## Hope Card Program: Notice to Our Law Enforcement and Community Partners

Effective July 1, 2022, The Hope Card Program has been expanded to all localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to § 19.2-152.10:1. Any person with a valid final protective order that is effective for at least twelve months pursuant to § 19.2-152.10 or 16.1-279.1 issued by any Virginia circuit or district court may request a Hope Card. The Hope Card is a durable, plastic, wallet-sized card that summarizes the protective order's most important details, in a durable, easy-to-read format.



Sample Hope Card

A Hope Card does NOT replace the existing protective order. Law enforcement still must verify the order in the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) when presented with a Hope Card. The Hope Card contains information such as:

- Identifying characteristics of the person being ordered to "stay away"
- Issue/Expiration date of the order
- Terms of the order, including possession of residence, etc.
- Other protected parties

Hope Cards are not issued for emergency protective orders, preliminary protective orders, or "no contact" orders in a criminal case.

To apply for a Hope Card, an individual may download the application at <a href="https://hopecard.vacourts.gov">https://hopecard.vacourts.gov</a>. Applications are also available from the clerks of court, and local victim advocates. Completed applications must be turned into the clerk of the court where the final protective order was issued. Applications are processed by the court clerk. A Hope Card will be sent directly to the applicant. The card may be sent elsewhere, as indicated by the applicant on the application. Most Hope Cards are processed and mailed to the applicant within 14 business days of the court clerk entering the request to the Hope Card Program.

Additional Hope Card Program resources, including program materials in Spanish, are available at <a href="https://hopecard.vacourts.gov">https://hopecard.vacourts.gov</a>. If you have questions about the Hope Card Program, please contact Anne Helms, Hope Card Program Coordinator at <a href="mailto:ahelms@vacourts.gov">ahelms@vacourts.gov</a>.



QR Code Link Virginia's Judicial System Domestic Violence Programs and Services (DVPS)

https://hopecard.vacourts.gov