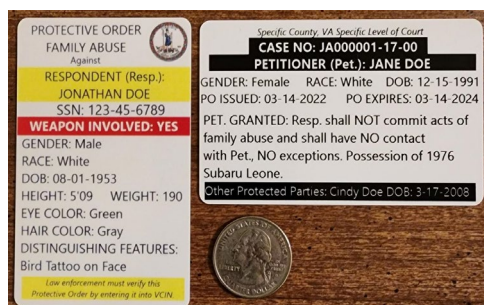


Hope Cards for Final Protective Orders Frequently Asked Questions



Individuals can keep all the important information from a final protective order on a plastic, wallet-sized card, issued through the Hope Card Program, at no charge to localities or individuals.

What is a Hope Card?

It is a laminated card, similar in size and shape to a credit card, that contains all the essential information about a civil protective order in a durable, easy-to-read format. The card is a convenient way to carry around the important information found on a protective order. It 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

Who is eligible to apply for a Hope Card?

Hope Cards are available for those with a final protective order issued in any district or circuit court in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a duration of 12 months or longer. Hope Cards are not issued for emergency protective orders, or “no contact” orders in a criminal case.

How does someone apply?

To apply for a Hope Card, download the application at <https://hopecard.vacourts.gov>, get an application from a court Clerk, or from a local victim/witness advocate. Once the application has been completed it must be turned into the court Clerk where the final protective order was issued and processed by the Clerk. A Hope Card will be sent directly to the applicant. For cases in which victim safety is a concern, the card may be sent elsewhere. This should be indicated on the application.

When will the Hope Card arrive?

Most Hope Cards are processed and mailed to the applicant within 14 business days of the Clerk entering the request into the system.



Judicial Services

Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia

If you have further questions about the Hope Card Program,
please contact:
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