

Hope Cards for Protective Orders

In Participating Virginia Localities

Frequently Asked Questions



Keep all the important information from your final protective order on a plastic, wallet-sized card, issued by the court at no charge.

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 when presented with a **Hope Card**. The **Hope Card** has 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 only to holders of a final civil protective order issued in Virginia localities participating in the **Hope Card** Program. To qualify for a **Hope Card**, the protective order must be the result of a domestic/family/sexual violence case, or stalking case and be for 12 months or longer. **Hope Cards** are not issued for emergency protective orders, preliminary protective orders, or "no contact" orders in a criminal case.

How does someone apply? To apply for a **Hope Card**, contact either the court Clerk where your protective order was issued or someone from your local Victim Assistance Program, and ask for an application. They will help you obtain the request form for a **Hope Card**. Once the form has been completed by the applicant and processed by the Clerk, a **Hope Card** will be sent directly to the applicant. For cases in which victim safety is a concern, a Hope Card may be sent elsewhere.

When will the Hope Card arrive? Most Hope Cards are mailed to the applicant within 14

To find out if your locality participates in the Hope Card Program, contact the court Clerk where your protective order was issued or ask your local Victim Assistance Office. If you are a service provider interested in getting your locality involved, please contact:
Jaime Clemmer, Hope Card Program Coordinator, jclemmer@vacourts.gov
Department of Judicial Planning, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia