



Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team Coordinated Community Response

DVPO Process Improvement Team Update

Reducing the burden:

In effort to reduce the burden on victims, the Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team (DVCLT) is committed to developing a more streamlined approach for victims of domestic violence seeking a domestic violence protective order (DVPO). Currently, we are working in collaboration with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to implement electronic filing of the DVPO paperwork and initial court appearances for victims. The initial phase, directly involves Safe Alliance, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (the County's non-profit domestic violence agency), the Mecklenburg County Clerk's Office, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and the District Court Judges.


Much work has been done to move the e-filing process ahead. Areas of focus have included improving data tracking, strengthening referrals and work on an expansion plan for Safe Alliance's Victim Assistance office. This will include address staffing capacity issues at both the Clerk's Office and at Safe Alliance.

DVCLT has charged this Task Team with achieving three deliverables:

1. We will work with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to implement electronic filing of the DVPO paperwork and initial court appearances for victims. This deliverable directly involves Safe Alliance, Mecklenburg County's non-profit domestic violence agency, the Mecklenburg County Clerk's Office and the District Court Judges.
2. We will work with the AOC to automate the many forms that must be prepared for filing a DVPO.
3. We will determine whether DVPO paperwork could be completed with the assistance of a victim advocate and electronically filed with the Magistrate and Civil Clerk's Office from remote locations.

Coordination is key:

The DV CLT DVPO Process Improvement Team is working with leaders of Safe Alliance, the Administrator of Courts, Mecklenburg County Judges, Clerk's Office and Sheriff's Office to address any barriers in bringing electronic filings of DVPO's to Mecklenburg County. The AOC will be demonstrating the ECourts Civil Domestic Violence (ECCDV) system to leaders involved with the initial launch of the system on Feb. 26 2018. Due to unforeseen challenges, the full launch of ECCDV has been moved from March and is being planned for the fall of 2018.



On Jan. 19, 2018, members of the DVCLT DVPO task team presented on the electronic filing process at a domestic violence conference held with the community.

Looking ahead:

In years two and three, this task group will work to automate the many forms that must be prepared when filing for a DVPO as well as work to determine whether DVPO paperwork can be filed with the Magistrate from our police departments. The last two deliverables will be built upon the foundation of the original e-filing implementation.

