

TELEPHONIC Protective Order Process During the COVID-19 Emergency

If you are in danger, call 911.

If you are a victim of abuse, stalking, or harassment, you can now complete your protection order request by phone, from the privacy of your home or a safe space, using this new procedure. However, the courts will continue to accommodate healthy individuals who visit in person for protection requests.

To take advantage of this service, you MUST start your protection order process online using the Arizona Protective Order Initiation & Notification Tool (AZPOINT) website from any computer, tablet, or mobile phone. You only need an email address, to make sure that the device you are using is safe, and, that you are not being monitored by the person causing you harm.

After you complete your application in AZPOINT, you will receive a unique reference number. Then, call the office of the Clerk of Court for any of the three main downtown courts, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m until 5:00 p.m., and provide that reference number.

- Superior Court 520-724-3221
- Justice Court 520-724-3942
- Tucson City Court 520-791-4971

The Clerk will review your paperwork, make sure you meet the requirements for a hearing, then arrange a time for a judge to call you back. If your petition is granted during your telephonic, on-the-record hearing, the Court will send the Order of Protection out for service the same day. (You may request service be delayed for up to 72 hours.)

Facts:

- The information you provide on the AZPOINT website is held securely for 90 days. You can save and return to finish your application at any time in that 90-day window.
- Both the application and service of a domestic violence Order of Protection are free of charge to the filing party.
- The domestic violence Order of Protection will be served by local law enforcement.
- Although the initial process of an Injunction Against Harassment (IAH) can be telephonic, applicants must visit
 the courthouse to pay their IAH fee (or apply for a fee waiver or deferral) and pick up the injunction paperwork.
 - The IAH applicant must also arrange service.

For the safety and health of the community and court staff during the COVID-19 crisis, the courts hope to process most protection order requests telephonically. However, the courts will continue to accommodate healthy individuals who visit in person for protection requests. If you are ill, please do not come to the courthouse.

For more information about AZPOINT or filing an order of protection, visit https://azpoint.azcourts.gov/ call one of the three Clerk of Court office numbers, bolded, above, or contact communityrelations@sc.pima.gov.

If you would like to talk with a victim advocate or arrange a safety plan, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is at 800-799-7233, and the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence (ACESDV) is at 800-782-6400. ACESDV safety planning is here: https://www.acesdv.org/about-sexual-domestic-violence/safety-planning/

For protection requests after business hours or on weekends, please contact your local law enforcement agency. If you are in danger, call 911.