NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

eCourts: Civil Domestic Violence System

September 7, 2015

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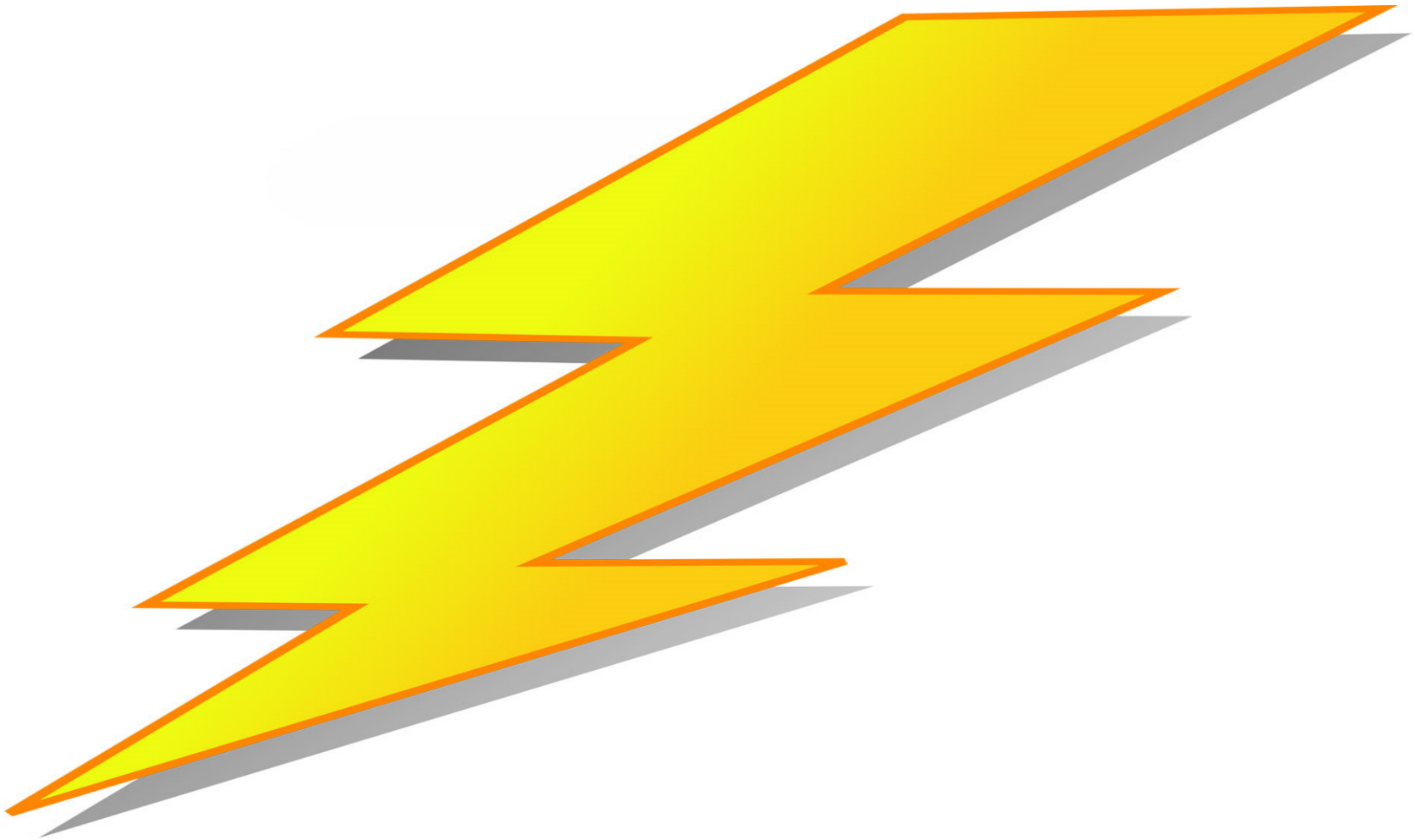
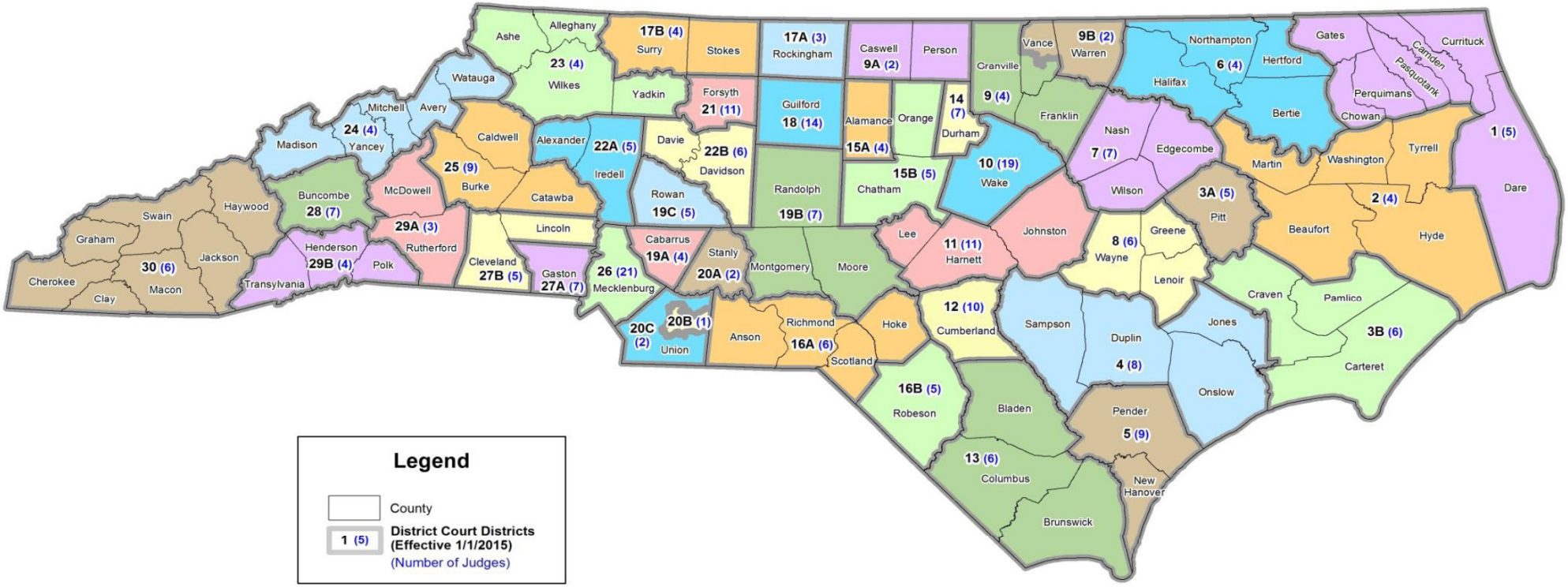
Court Programs and Management Services



SSE1

District Court Districts (Effective 1/1/2015)



Not depicted here is one at-large judgeship in Union County, designated as district 20D.
Map based on G.S. 7A-133.
Printed by the NC General Assembly, October 03, 2014.

Slide 3

SSE1 As of January 1, 2015, North Carolina has 41 judicial districts that incorporate 100 counties.

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Issues with the current system

- Victim Safety
- Courthouse personnel safety
- Drain on DV agency resources
- Discontinuance of the process
- Reluctance to seek judicial assistance to address future needs
- Efficiency
- Loss of work for the victim
- Child care

Statewide Statistics

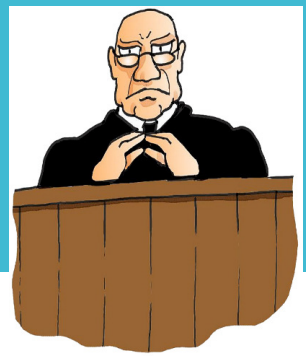
- Population: (2016) 10,247,632

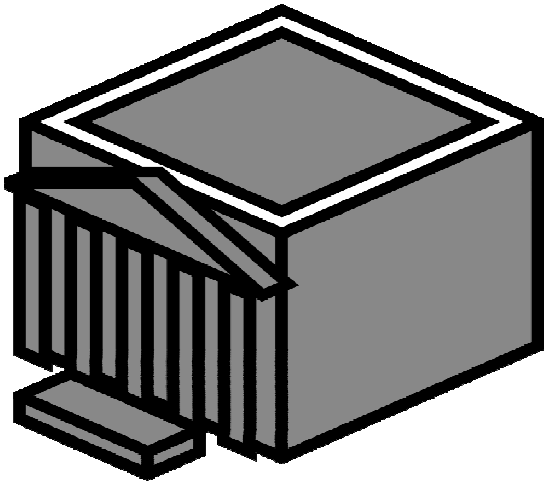
- DOME Filings: 32,258
- Orders Granted: 10,548
- Orders Denied: 3,133
- Voluntarily Dismissed: 7,290
- Involuntarily Dismissed: 9,506

- DV Homicides: 66 (2016)

SSE2

Alamance Model Prior to June 2013





Slide 6

SSE2 First the victim arrives at the Family Justice Center, which houses the DV agency. They fill out the paper work and take it to the clerk's office, 8 miles away. They file it with the clerk, then take it to the courthouse, 3 blocks away with no parking. Then back to the clerk's office after the hearing. Then off to the sheriff's department for service, 6 blocks away. Then back to the DV agency, 8 miles away. The deputies then have to get the documents served and return the proof of service to the clerk's office. All before the permanent order hearing in 10 days.

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Current eCourts Civil Domestic Violence Districts

Alamance County

Launched June 26, 2013

- Population: 158,276 (2016)

- DOME Filings: 439
- Orders Granted: 192
- Orders Denied: 3
- Voluntary Dismissals: 136
- Involuntary Dismissals: 111

- DV Homicides: 1

Guilford County

Launched August 3, 2015

- Population: 517,600 (2016)

- DOME Filings: 1,526
- Orders Granted: 544
- Orders Denied: 7
- Voluntary Dismissals: 304
- Involuntary Dismissals: 648

- DV Homicides: (2013) 9

Current eCourts Civil Domestic Violence Districts

Wake County

Launched May 16, 2016

- Population: 1,024,198 (2016)
- DOME Filings: 2,242
- Orders Granted: 810
- Orders Denied: 318
- Voluntary Dismissals: 466
- Involuntary Dismissals: 567
- DV Homicides: 9

Davidson County

Launched October 31, 2016

- Population: 164,622 (2016)
- DOME Filings: 690
- Orders Granted: 199
- Orders Denied: 20
- Voluntary Dismissals: 167
- Involuntary Dismissals: 300
- DV Homicides: 1

Current eCourts Civil Domestic Violence Districts

Durham County
Expected Launch April 24, 2017

- Population: 267,587 (2016)

- DOME Filings: 953
- Orders Granted: 324
- Orders Denied: 165
- Voluntary Dismissals: 143
- Involuntary Dismissals: 345

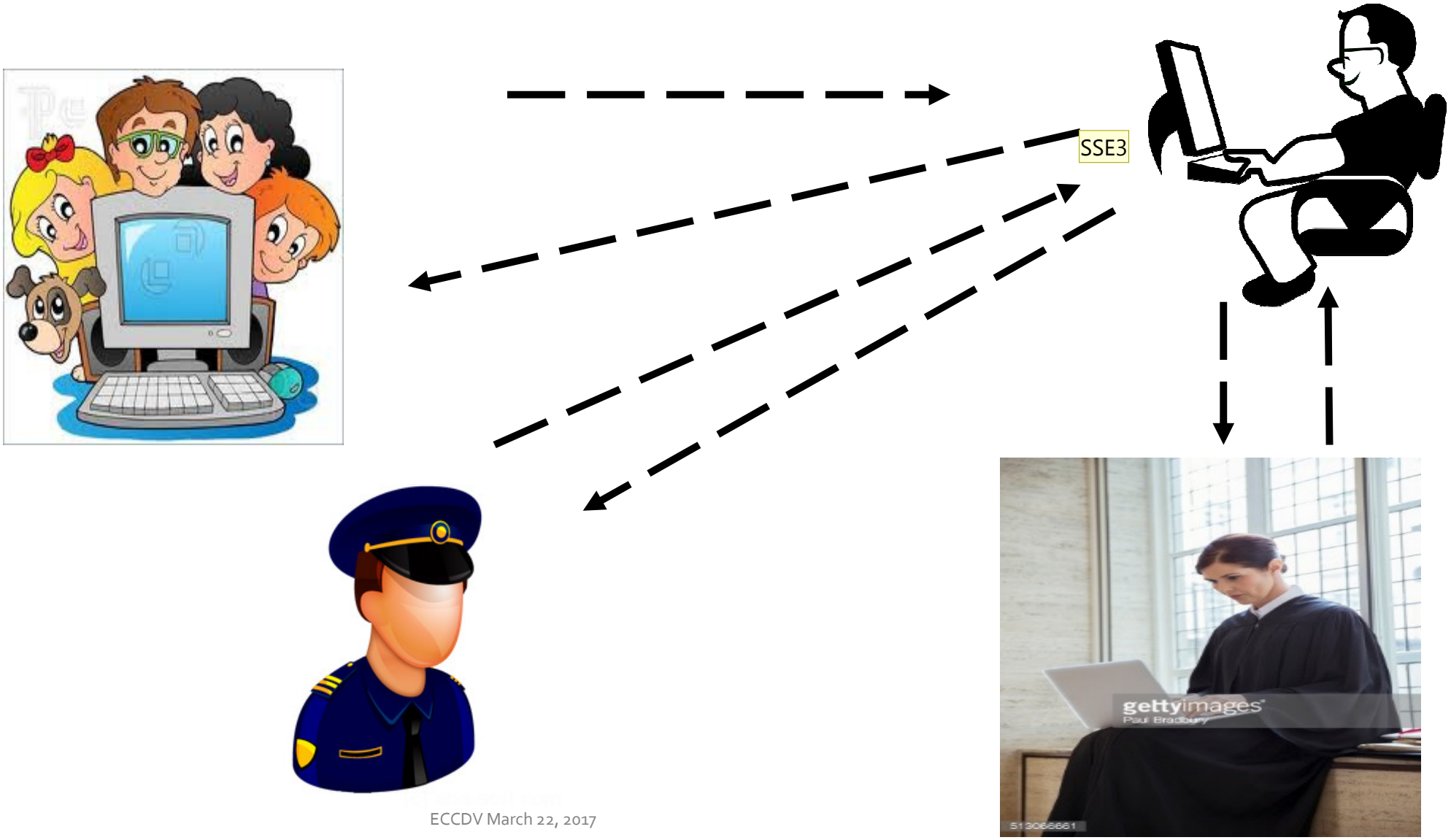
- DV Homicides: 6

Mecklenburg County
Launch Winter 2017/Spring 2018

- Population: 1,034,070 (2016)

- DOME Filings: 3,170
- Orders Granted: 1,178
- Orders Denied: 391
- Voluntary Dismissals: 437
- Involuntary Dismissals: 1,041

- DV Homicides: 8


SSE3
gettyimages
Paul Bradbury

Slide 10

SSE3 All information is transmitted electonically for the initial ex parte DVPO. The victim never needs to leave the safety of the DV agency and the documents are processed through the system almost instantaneously.

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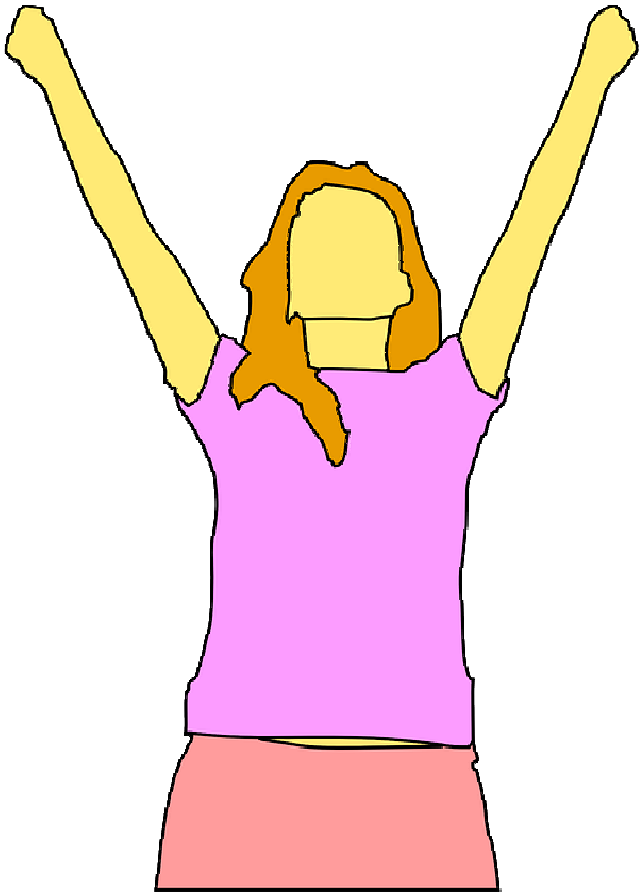
Benefits to the Petitioner

- Petitioner can seek the assistance of the judicial system without having to leave the safety of a DV agency.
- The petitioner can receive wraparound services, such as safety planning, child care, and housing assistance.
- Increased likelihood that the petitioner will complete the process by appearing for their permanent order.
- Short circuits the batterer's usual methods of accessing the petitioner and manipulate the process.



Benefits to the Court Clerks

- Efficient processing of court documents.
- Integration with VCAP eliminates the need for data entry replication.
- Significant reduction in the number of hours spent processing civil domestic violence documents.

Benefits to the Judge

- Immediate access to ex parte DV cases, with assuredness that the petitioner is present, via remote feed, and prepared to go forward with their proceedings.
- Courtroom docket flows more efficiently and matters are heard timely.
- Provides a one-on-one opportunity with the petitioner to address the concerns outlined in the DVPO application.

Benefits to Law Enforcement

- Immediate access to the protective order documents, even in patrol cars.
- Facilitates faster service of process.
- Ready access to current and legible documents increases confidence in executing warrantless arrests for violations of domestic violence protective orders.
- Enhances officers sense of safety and job satisfaction.

“I had to go through this process before and it was so confusing. Being able to stay in one place, makes such a huge difference! It is nowhere near as scary for me and my kids.”

“I was so nervous thinking about what to expect with the 50B process. Not having to go through security or find the right courtroom is huge. I feel so much safer being here at the Family Justice Center and talking to the Judge through the computer.”

“This (the 50B process) is AMAZING! So much easier! The words thank you just don’t seem like enough!”