

OREGON COURTS MAKE IT EASIER TO COMPLETE DOCUMENTS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER CASES

Preparing documents in Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order cases will be simpler starting today. Electronic interview-based forms now available on all Oregon circuit court websites will make it easier for parties to fill out and file FAPA documents with the courts.

To be able to provide these types of forms has been a long-time goal of the Chief Justice, State Family Law Advisory Committee (SFLAC), judges, and administrators throughout the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). The forms, which have been used in Multnomah County since September 2012, use a simple online interview process to make sure all statutorily-required information is provided. The user then prints the forms for court filing. The process makes it easier for petitioners and respondents in FAPA cases to complete the forms, and more efficient for the courts to adjudicate these cases because the form is complete and legible.

The forms are available through the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) website (<http://www.courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/courtimprovement/familylaw/Pages/fapaforms.aspx>). There is no charge to people using this service.

The forms have been developed as part of an ongoing effort by OJD to improve access to the courts and make judicial processes more consistent across the state. The Oregon eCourt Program, the state court information technology and business transformation project, is developing online forms in other case types, which also will provide statewide consistency and seamless electronic filing of these documents with the court.

The FAPA forms are made available under a contract between the Oregon Judicial Department and TurboCourt™. The filer registers with TurboCourt™, completes forms on a secure TurboCourt™ website using a simple interview process, prints the forms, has them notarized, and then files the documents at the court. The forms have easy-to-understand instructions and information throughout the process to explain legal terms and court procedures. eFiling is not yet available for these forms.

Forms available in this program allow people to apply for, modify, dismiss, or challenge a FAPA restraining order. Approximately 10,000 FAPA cases are filed in Oregon courts each year.