

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



**MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
FIRST TO LAUNCH
PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(JUNE 9, 2010)**

Following two years of software development and testing, on June 7th, Marin County Superior Court became the first court in California to implement the California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR). CCPOR is expected to be deployed over the next several years to all 58 trial courts by the California Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The new system is made possible through the AOC and grant funding provided by the California Emergency Management Agency.

Marin is the first of three pilot courts to go live on the new system. CCPOR will ultimately be a repository for the courts of all restraining and protective orders issued throughout California. The primary focus of CCPOR is to enhance public safety, especially for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse and civil harassment. The program stems from a recommendation made by the Judicial Council's Domestic Violence Practices and Procedures Task Force which strongly supports the implementation of this statewide registry.

The benefits of deploying CCPOR across the state will become evident as an increasing number of courts and law enforcement agencies come on board the new system. First and foremost, CCPOR will assist judicial officers in issuing protective orders that are consistent with orders that may already exist in other jurisdictions, to maximize victim safety while minimizing confusion when law enforcement responds to 911 calls or other urgent requests for assistance. The long term vision is for officers from across California to be able to retrieve data and scanned images of judicial orders from any jurisdiction, which will facilitate timely, accurate access to information that will assist them in handling potentially dangerous incidents. CCPOR will also automatically update the Department of Justice's on-line protective order system, already available to all law enforcement agencies. Presiding Judge Terrence Boren believes that CCPOR will have an immediate positive impact on enforcement of protective orders and will improve victim safety. He states, "I have been a prosecutor and judge for more than forty-one years and have often been frustrated by information gaps in the criminal justice system that leave victims vulnerable to new incidents of violence. I know that CCPOR will help judges and police agencies to make great improvements in the enforcement of orders designed to protect victims across California. I am proud that Marin Superior Court was instrumental in working with AOC to develop this tool to improve public safety for families, elders and some of our most vulnerable California residents."

Working in collaboration with the AOC and other trial courts across California, Marin County Superior Court assisted the design team in creating and testing the software application which streamlines and expedites data entry of protective orders and enables images of those orders to be linked to data entered in CCPOR. It is anticipated by the end of December, 2010, a total of 20 trial courts will be using CCPOR. Then, over the next few years, the plan is to add the remaining 38 courts to the program. Once the entire state is using CCPOR, literally thousands of judicial orders will be contained in the registry and will be available to all public safety agencies and courts.

The Marin Superior Court volunteered to pilot the new program primarily because domestic violence is the most prevalent crime of violence filed in the court each year. Playing a leadership role in deploying CCPOR is the latest

initiative undertaken by the Court to bring more resources to bear on domestic violence, elder abuse and civil harassment. In 2008, the Court launched its very successful Family Violence Court, which focuses on high risk offenders determined most likely to reoffend, many who already have multiple domestic violence convictions. Since its inception, Family Violence Court has worked with 49 defendants; only two have been arrested on new domestic violence charges in that time and many have successfully 'graduated' from Family Violence Court, having successfully completed a year-long batterers' treatment program and other conditions of probation. The Marin County Civil Grand Jury also recently released a report, *Domestic Violence: Marin's Number One Violent Crime*, praising the Court for its dedication to open and active participation by all governmental and community stakeholders in local coordination efforts to reduce incidents of domestic violence.

The Court plans to reap the benefits of enhanced information sharing on protective orders as trial courts across California join CCPOR this year and beyond. Court Executive Officer Kim Turner said, "We are grateful to the Judicial Council for focusing resources and state-of-the-art technology on statewide improvements that will enhance victim safety and improve our overall system of justice in California."

For additional information regarding this press release, contact
Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer at (415) 444-7020.