

April 12, 2017

What would be the impact on victims and advocates should all information on domestic violence and sexual assault protective orders, no longer be posted on CourtView?

Suzi Pearson, Executive Director, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Anchorage	It would have an extremely negative impact on victims. Victims use CourtView to check out if the individual has prior POs for personal safety. We guide folks through the process all the time and it is used to show a history of individuals' behaviors as part of our warning signs and safety planning. Not being able to access that information could put victims at risk.
Annette Wooton, Executive Director, Working Against Violence for Everyone, Petersburg	I use CourtView nearly every day. I can log in and see the status of an old or existing PO. I can see if the other party has filed any motions, at any time of day and not just the limited hours of the court house. CourtView saves me so much time! We have 2 staff members at WAVE and our time is precious to us.
Victoria D'Amico, Executive Director, Sitkans Against Family Violence, Sitka	We at SAFV tend to look up almost every abuser's court record to look for civil or criminal violence. This helps us to know what we're dealing with.
Virginia Walsh, Executive Director, Arctic Women in Crisis, Utqiagvik	It impacts the participants we serve in that we would now have to go to the courthouse to access the information. In the midst of a crisis situation where a victim wants information from Court View in order to file a PO, this becomes another obstacle for her/him. If the victim is afraid to be in public because of the perpetrator, they now have to go physically to find the information; which in a small rural community may place them in even more danger.
Eileen Arnold, Executive Director, Tundra Women's Coalition, Bethel	POs ask for past conviction info in the orders--CourtView is a way for us to get that information to support a judge's being able to make a good decision.
Barbara (Qasuglana) Amarok, Executive Director, Bering Sea Women's Group, Nome	In many smaller communities, there are no law enforcement representatives or shelter staff and/or court systems; these organizations, along with Court View, make access to protective orders possible. The greatest impact of Court View no longer publishing protective orders, would be on victims and their safety.
Sam Foist-Swart, DVSA Coordinator, SeaView Community Services, Seward	Revoking the ability to see DVPO's on CourtView would greatly hinder me and my client's ability to track the assigned court case and safety plan around court dates. Having DVPO information only available at the courthouse, while potentially nice in theory, isn't feasible for court closures or client accessibility.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE
Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Petersburg WAVE
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Utqiagvik AWIC Valdez AVV

<p>Keeley Olson, Executive Director, Standing Together Against Rape, Anchorage</p>	<p>It is an incredibly helpful tool to be able to look up a person's court history, including civil protection orders. Even if not from an Advocacy perspective, I know many people who are checking CourtView before dating or agreeing to meet someone. As an Advocate, I have recommended this to people who have experienced dating violence in the past, as a handy tool to see if the person they are chatting with is legit or too good to be true, noting this is not a fool proof system.</p> <p>I also use CourtView to check on applicants for volunteering and employment. I do not want to hire anyone who has a history of DV or SA PO's against them.</p> <p>The idea of having to physically go to the courthouse to review documents is very problematic for rural folks, I imagine. It would be a pain in Anchorage, too. Plus, if privacy is the issue, then you are likely to find out much more information about both parties of the PO by going to the courthouse and reviewing the file. There, are you going to be able to actually read the petitions for the orders and have intimate details? That seems more intrusive than simply seeing that three people had four PO's against a person. If I wanted more detail, then I could go to the courthouse, but generally that information would suffice. And especially SA PO's, those are extremely sensitive details that you would not encourage people to seek out.</p>
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