What to Expect on the Day You File a Petition for a Domestic Violence or Dating Violence Civil Protection Order

The Ex Parte Hearing

On the day you file your petition for a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order (DVCPO) or Dating Violence Civil Protection Order (DTCPO), **expect to attend an initial hearing (an ex parte hearing) on your petition within two (2) hours of filing it**. The docket office will schedule your ex parte hearing for the first available time on a magistrate's docket, unless you file your petition after 3:00 PM. The Court will conduct hearings on petitions filed after 3:00 PM on the following business day.

The ex parte hearing will last about thirty (30) minutes. The Court will either issue an ex parte order or issue an order denying an ex parte order at the end of your hearing.

If the Court issues an ex parte order, you should expect to wait approximately fifteen minutes for copies of the order. This order is not enforceable against the respondent until it has been served on him/her. You will receive two copies—one for yourself and one for law enforcement if you need to involve the police to serve the order. You can check to see if the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has delivered the order to the respondent by calling Hamilton County Sheriff's Office at (513) 946-5340.

Regardless of whether the Court issues an ex parte order, the Court will schedule a full hearing on your petition between seven (7) and ten (10) court days after the ex parte hearing.