



EXPANDING HOPE CARD ACCESS FOR SURVIVORS STATEWIDE

The Hope Card Program – administered by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia - allows anyone who has a non-temporary valid civil protection order to obtain a card summarizing the protection order’s critical information. A Hope Card is not a substitute for the protection order; it offers victims a durable and convenient means of carrying pertinent information regarding an existing order.

The design of the Hope Card combines law enforcement’s immediate need for information in response to a domestic violence incident with a victim’s need for safety, convenience, and wraparound services. Its size and durable surface allow it to be easily carried and concealed by the survivor without the burden of having a multi-page paper order that could be lost or damaged. The Card displays essential protection order data in a concise and easy-to-read format. Each Card contains the issuance and expiration dates, information about the issuing court, and identifying information on any other protected parties. The opposite side of the Card lists identifying characteristics of the Respondent, including a photograph, when available. It also includes specific terms of the order. Currently, Hope Card applications are submitted to JDR Court Clerks and then to the Office of the Executive Secretary for processing and production. For more information and FAQs on the Hope Card Program see:

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/judpln/programs/dvps/hope/faq.pdf>

What are we asking for?

- An annual budget item to cover the cost of the total estimated amount for the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to implement the Hope Card Program in all trial courts statewide: **\$81,062 each year or \$162,124 per biennium.**
- This expense includes projected statewide numbers based on current number of protective orders issued – approximately 3,000 orders issued in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts and an additional 1,000 orders issued in General District and Circuit Courts. The projected statewide cost for this program includes Hope Card materials and production as well as marketing materials and training for judges, clerks, and systems partners as implemented by the Supreme Court of Virginia, Office of the Executive Secretary.