

14. District Court Transmittal No. 622, November 6, 1996, “Out-of-State Domestic Violence Restraining Orders”



Trial Court of the Commonwealth
District Court Department

SAMUEL E. ZOLL
Chief Justice

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TRANSMITTAL NO. 622

Last Transmittal No. to:

Presiding Justices 621

Other Judges 620

Clerk-Magistrates 620

CPOs/POICs 620

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PRESIDING JUSTICES: *Please distribute copies (enclosed) of this memorandum to the clerk-magistrate and chief probation officer of the court. Other judges will receive their copies directly from this office.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: All District Court Judges, Clerk-Magistrates and Chief Probation Officers
FROM: Chief Justice Zoll
DATE: November 6, 1996
SUBJECT: Out-of-State Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

The enclosed memorandum from Chief Justice John J. Irwin, Jr. sets forth the new statutory procedural requirements for filing out-of-state domestic violence protective orders. These statutory requirements implement the "full faith and credit" provisions of St. 1996, c. 298, "An Act Relative to the Crime of Stalking."

This new law, including the provisions for filing and enforcement of out-of-state orders, is effective on November 7, 1996. A copy of the new law is attached to Chief Justice Irwin's memorandum. See also my memorandum of October 4, 1996 (Transmittal No. 616).

Also attached to the enclosed memorandum are procedures issued by the Commissioner of Probation to all probation departments for recording out-of-state orders on the Massachusetts Registry of Civil Restraining Orders. Obviously, these procedures for entering out-of-state orders into the Registry are critical to the proper implementation of the law and must be followed carefully by probation personnel.

Proper implementation of this new law will also require the following step-by-step procedures by all *Clerk-Magistrates*:

1. The plaintiff must present the Clerk-Magistrate with a certified copy of the out-of-state order. G.L. c. 209A, s. 5A.
2. The plaintiff must file an affidavit sworn under oath that, to the best of his or her knowledge, "such order is presently in effect as written." G.L. c. 209A, s. 5A. *A form affidavit is enclosed with this memorandum.*
3. Upon receipt of the order and affidavit, *the Clerk-Magistrate must assign as a docket number the "FF" (full faith) number that will be used by probation.* The usual "RO" docket number for Massachusetts cases should *not* be assigned.

As indicated in the enclosed memo from the Commissioner of Probation, the "FF" number is determined as follows:

- The first two characters consist of the State Postal Code abbreviations for the state which originally issued the order. (See list of codes on the last page of Probation Commissioner's memo of October 30, 1996, attached hereto.)
- The second two characters (or three if appropriate) consist of the court number of the Massachusetts court where the out-of-state order is being filed.
- The next six characters consist of the date the certified order is filed with the Massachusetts clerk or register (YYMMDD).

E.g.: An order from New Hampshire filed at the Clerk's Office at court 52 on December 1, 1996 would have the docket number NH52961201.

- In the unlikely event that a court receives two out-of-state orders from the same state on the same day, the clerk-magistrate should add a hyphen and the appropriate two-digit designation to distinguish them, e.g., "-01," "-02," etc.

4. The Clerk-Magistrate should promptly record the "FF" number on the order, prepare a file folder with that same number, place the affidavit in the folder and give the order to the Probation Department for entry into the Registry. The order should be given to probation as soon as possible, and *no later than the end of the same day it is received by the Clerk-Magistrate.*

5. Following probation entry into the Registry, the Clerk-Magistrate should be sure to get the order back from probation and place it in the file folder, with the affidavit.

6. These "FF" files should be maintained separately from other files. Note that if the person filing the order requests impoundment of his or her address, that address will have to be protected from public access. G.L. c. 209A, s. 8.

7. While no separate docket sheet is needed in each file (there will be no court action on the matter), a list of such cases should be maintained showing the file number and plaintiff's name.

* * *

Clerk-Magistrates and Chief Probation Officers should review these procedures

MEMORANDUM

November 6, 1996

Page 3

carefully with the personnel who will be assigned to perform them. It is particularly important that Clerk's office personnel and probation personnel communicate and coordinate their efforts to ensure that out-of-state orders are promptly and properly received, entered into the Registry and filed.

Please contact John Connors at this office regarding any questions you may have on the law or the required procedures.

Thank you.

SEZ:cd
Enclosure

**AFFIDAVIT FOR FILING
OUT-OF-STATE PROTECTIVE ORDER**
G.L. c. 209A, § 5A or G.L. c. 258E, § 7

MASSACHUSETTS DOCKET NO.
(for court use only)

Massachusetts Trial Court



Pursuant to G.L. c. 209A, § 5A or G.L. c. 258E, § 7, I swear or affirm that to the best of my knowledge the order issued by

_____ of _____
(court) (state)

a certified copy of which is submitted with this affidavit, is presently in effect as written.

Signed under the penalties of perjury.

DATE SIGNED

PLAINTIFF'S SIGNATURE

X

Please submit with this affidavit a certified copy of the other state's court order and the Massachusetts "PLAINTIFF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" and "DEFENDANT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PLAINTIFF" forms.

STATUTORY EXCERPTS

G.L. c. 209A, § 1. "As used in this chapter the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Protection order issued by another jurisdiction", any injunction or other order issued by a court of another state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia, or a tribal court that is issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts or harassment against, or contact or communication with or physical proximity to another person, including temporary and final orders issued by civil and criminal courts filed by or on behalf of a person seeking protection."

G.L. c. 209A, § 5A. "Any protection order issued by another jurisdiction, as defined in section one, shall be given full faith and credit throughout the commonwealth and enforced as if it were issued in the commonwealth for as long as the order is in effect in the issuing jurisdiction.

"A person entitled to protection under a protection order issued by another jurisdiction may file such order . . . by filing with the court a certified copy of such order which shall be entered into the statewide domestic violence record keeping system established pursuant to the provisions of [St. 1992, c. 188, § 7] and maintained by the office of the commissioner of probation. Such person shall swear under oath in an affidavit, to the best of such person's knowledge, that such order is presently in effect as written. Upon request by a law enforcement agency, the register or clerk of such court shall provide a certified copy of the protection order issued by the other jurisdiction.

"A law enforcement officer may presume the validity of, and enforce . . . a copy of a protection order issued by another jurisdiction which has been provided to the law enforcement officer by any source; provided, however, that the officer is also provided with a statement by the person protected by the order that such order remains in effect. Law enforcement officers may rely on such statement by the person protected by such order."

G.L. c. 258E, § 1. "As used in this chapter the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings

"Protection order issued by another jurisdiction", an injunction or other order issued by a court of another state, territory or possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia, or a tribal court that is issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts, abuse or harassment against, or contact or communication with or physical proximity to another person, including temporary and final orders issued by civil and criminal courts filed by or on behalf of a person seeking protection."

G.L. c. 258E, § 7. "Any protection order issued by another jurisdiction shall be given full faith and credit throughout the commonwealth and enforced as if it were issued in the commonwealth for as long as the order is in effect in the issuing jurisdiction.

"A person entitled to protection under a protection order issued by another jurisdiction may file such order with the appropriate court by filing with the court a certified copy of such order. Such person shall swear under oath in an affidavit, to the best of such person's knowledge, that such order is presently in effect as written. Upon request by a law enforcement agency, the clerk or clerk-magistrate of such court shall provide a certified copy of the protection order issued by the other jurisdiction.

"A law officer may presume the validity of, and enforce . . . a copy of a protection order issued by another jurisdiction which has been provided to the law officer by any source; provided, however, that the officer is also provided with a statement by the person protected by the order that such order remains in effect. Law officers may rely on such statement by the person protected by such order."