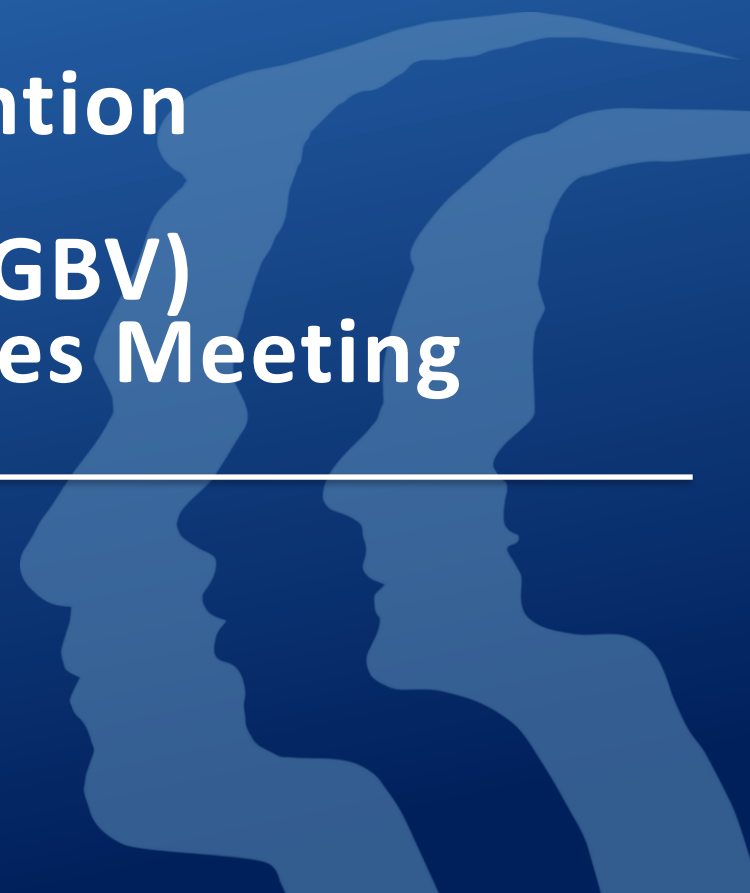




Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Policy Deputies Meeting

March 19, 2026





Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative (GBVPI) Updates





GBVPI Workplan





GBVPI Workplan

Goal:

To reduce gender-based violence in Los Angeles County by strengthening coordination and collaboration, investing in evidence-based prevention strategies, and supporting a justice and trauma-informed approach that fosters safety, healing, and equity.



GBVPI Workplan

A 3-year plan to reduce GBV in LA County with a focus on:

1. Investing in evidence-based community driven and survivor informed prevention strategies;
2. Increasing education and awareness about GBV, resources and programs through countywide prevention campaigns and messaging;
3. Strengthening coordination and collaboration across county departments and between county and community partners, to increase access to services and better leverage resources;
4. Advancing policy, practice and system change; and
5. Improving data collection and monitoring grant funded outcomes and impacts.



GBVPI Workplan

Year 1 (October 2024 – June 2025): Creating Infrastructure and Awarding First Investments in Prevention

- 1. Create GBV Prevention governance and coordination efforts through regular cluster meetings.**
- 2. Build staffing and operational foundation for the initiative.**
- 3. Award \$2M in community grants in 4 key focus areas.**
- 4. Conduct a County Department GBV Landscape Analysis.**
5. Collect and share consistent and comprehensive data on GBV through reports, dashboards, and the OVP website.



GBVPI Workplan

Year 2 (July 2025–June 2026): Implementation of Prevention Programming, Learning Collaboratives, and Raising Awareness

- 1. Establish Learning Collaboratives for GBV subcontractors.**
- 2. Pursue State funding to increase GBVPI investment.**
- 3. Disseminate Teen Dating Violence Prevention Toolkit widely including via CBOs and in partnership with LACOE & LAUSD.**
4. Execute second year contracts to ensure continuity of GBV prevention services.
5. Continue to coordinate GBV efforts with county and community partners – focus areas: economic empowerment, workplace violence best practices, dissemination of the DV prevention toolkit and DVRO materials and resources.



GBVPI Workplan

Year 3 (July 2026–June 2027): Expand Investment in Prevention, Share Outcomes and Impacts, Identify Policy Opportunities

1. Continue to pursue grant opportunities to increase funding for GBV prevention.
2. Develop and release a GBV Prevention Request for Proposals (RFP) to expand the pool of funded agencies.
3. Develop a report to share GBV Prevention grant outcomes and elevate best practices as it pertains to prevention.
4. Work with CEO-LAIR and DPH Government Affairs to explore potential legislation that support survivors and GBV efforts.
5. Expand coordination efforts to include new partners and new projects.



GBVPI Workplan

Reporting & Sustainability

1. Share lessons learned and semi-annual reports with board offices, county and community partners.
2. Work with county and community partners to develop a sustainability plan for successful strategies in Year 3.
3. Identify and respond to GBV Prevention funding opportunities.



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Campaign Outcomes





TDVAM Outreach Strategy

During **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**, OVP elevated the *Check for Respect: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Toolkit* through:

- Newsletter outreach
- Website engagement
- Social media promotion
- Distribution of printed materials



Newsletter Outreach

Newsletter	Reach
OVP's February newsletter	8,546 subscribers
OVP's Trauma Prevention Initiative (OVP) newsletters	828 subscribers
Total:	9,374 subscribers

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was featured in the February DPH Director's Briefing.



Toolkit Requests

- Interest in the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Toolkit increased significantly during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- OVP distributed more than **4,000 *Check for Respect*** materials, by request.
- OVP continues to work on the website to add a page specifically for teens and a page for adults, additional messaging and tools.



Community Engagement

TDVAM outreach generated requests for presentations and collaboration.

OVP received invitations to present toolkit information to:

- **Curtiss Middle School (Carson):** Parent workshop on teen dating violence and healthy relationships
- **Interfaith Breakfast (Palmdale):** Presentation to faith leaders and community members
- **Dignity Health Northridge Hospital (Northridge):** Educator conference for LAUSD partners



Social Media Engagement

POST	IG	FB	X/TWITTER
Feb 4.	17568 views, 8283 reach	1457 views, 1028 viewers	2363 impressions, 28 engagements
Feb 10.	19822 views, 6801 reach	1395 views and viewers	1752 impressions, 19 engagements



What's Next

- Widespread distribution of updated materials.
- Expansion of the Check for Respect website.
- Toolkit companion materials specifically for parents.
- Social media showcase encouraging youth to reflect on the toolkit's themes.



QUESTIONS?

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Intimate Partner Violence Within Families Convening





Preventing IPV Within Families Convening

- Partnership between DCFS Mandated Supporter Initiative and the Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention
- Convening held on October 17, 2025
- Attendees included County Department leaders and decision-makers, Community-based organizations, individuals with lived experience, philanthropy and advocates



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening

Purpose and Desired Outcomes:

- Deepen knowledge and understanding about the intersection of IPV and the child welfare system, with special focus on families with young children.
- Develop actionable strategies to prevent and address IPV within families and child welfare system involvement, with special focus on families with young children.



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening Tabletop Strategy Session – Supporting Families

- Implementing universal approaches to screening or offering resources/help.
- Removing fear/concern regarding foster care linked to “Failure to Protect” allegations.
- Decriminalizing the victim and providing wraparound services to families without DCFS cases.
- Creating a family-oriented crisis response model similar to a family 988 using trauma-informed, culturally competent clinicians.



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening Tabletop Strategy Session – Generational Abuse

- Early intervention beginning as early as possible, before puberty and reinforcement annually at 7th through 12th grades.
 - Strategies include trauma-informed training for all school staff, men’s circles, fatherhood classes, peer mentorship, and safe spaces for real conversations.
- Creating job opportunities for people with lived experience and building mentorship models across youth and adult populations.



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening Tabletop Strategy Session – Data Collection

- Universal anonymous understanding of prevalence
- Standard definitions
- Data captured through clinicians, faith-based institutions, and other trusted partners.
- Integrating systems by connecting all systems data interacting with family (law enforcement, DCFS, DMH).
 - Missing indicators include economic status, disability-related information, veteran data, and qualitative insights because “data isn’t it - stories matter.”
- Standardizing law enforcement reporting through CA Penal Code 13730



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening Tabletop Strategy Session – Data Collection

- Monthly meetings to collaborate, centralized resources, and improving accessibility through online tools, multilingual resource books, training, and school-based education.
- Need for less siloing, culturally relevant programs, reduced barriers for families, and expanded partnerships with schools, CBOs, CVI agencies, faith-based organizations, health plans, and Managed Care Plans.



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening – Opportunities for Integration with GBVPI

Community Partnerships

1. Integrate healthy relationship and communication curricula in early education settings, continuing throughout middle and high school.
2. Expand mentorship and lived experience-led programs, including men's circles, fatherhood classes, young adult groups, and lived-experience employment pathways.
3. Strengthen partnerships with community organizations, faith-based organizations, Community Violence Intervention (CVI) agencies, youth providers, and schools.
4. Collaborate with partners to implement trauma-informed training and healthy relationship education in Student Wellbeing Centers, Our Spot, and peer programs.



Preventing IPV Within Families Convening – Opportunities for Integration with GBVPI

Service Coordination

1. Centralize county IPV resources through regional hubs, streamlined information-sharing, and widely publicized helplines.
2. Improve the referral process between existing County programs/resources and community partners who work directly with DV/IPV survivors to expand access to concrete supports such as housing, childcare, employment assistance, parenting groups, and legal services.
3. Reduce barriers to care through the development of multi-lingual materials, increased telehealth access, and expanding service hours outside of traditional service hours.

Funding and Sustainability

1. Engage philanthropy and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans to expand prevention funding.



Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) System Mapping and Rights Package for Survivors

Content Warning



- This presentation will discuss relationship abuse.
- **Domestic violence is pervasive and has touched many of our lives either directly or indirectly.**
- Please look after yourself as we proceed.

Project Background

In the spring of 2024, the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Council (DVC), brought together a diverse group of over 30 partners including **survivors, domestic violence providers, community leaders, law enforcement, City and County departments, court representatives, and other service providers** to participate in a DVRO system mapping workgroup.

The workgroup engaged in a **5-month system mapping** process to **identify and address barriers in policy, practices, and processes that hinder access to obtaining a domestic violence restraining order (DVRO).**





DVRO System Mapping Participants

American Indian Counseling Center
California Association of Anger
Management Providers
California Commission on Disability Access
East Los Angeles Women's Center
Jenesse Center Inc
Homeboy Industries
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Long Beach Department of Health and
Human Services
Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Council
Los Angeles County Probation Department
Los Angeles County Women and Girls
Initiative

Los Angeles Department of Mental Health
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Los Angeles Superior Courts
Los Angeles Superior Courts- Self Help
Metropolitan Church of Christ- Carson
New Directions Counseling Center La Mirada
North Valley Anger Management Consultants
Rainbow Services
Strength United
The People Concern
Volunteers of America, Los Angeles
Young B.O.S.S. NPO
YWCA San Gabriel Valley

DVRO System Mapping: Our Approach

Systems Mapping is the creation of visual depictions of a system, such as its relationships, feedback loops, actors, and trends.



Steps:

1. Define the Scope
2. Current State Map
3. Future State Map & Recommendations
4. Implementation



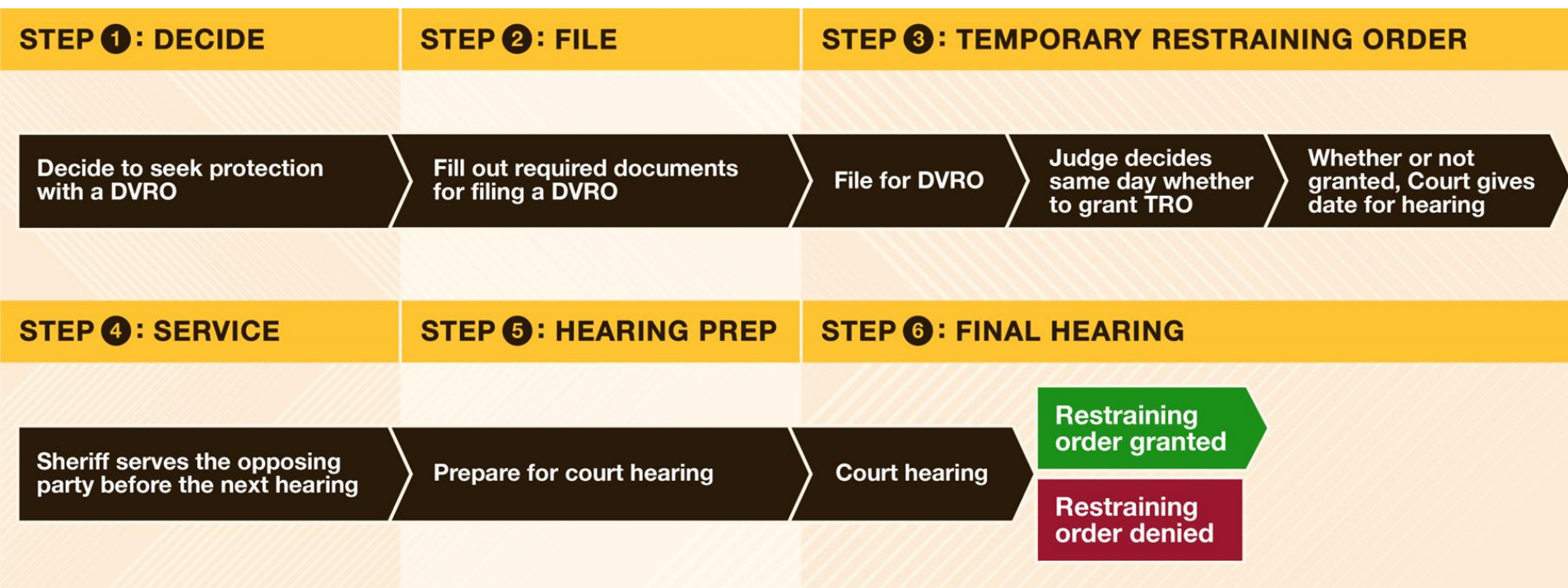
The Current State:

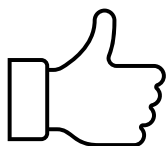
What is the reality of the DVRO process?



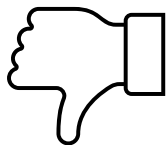


Legal steps to obtain a DVRO





DVROs are a proven tool for protecting a survivor and their family's rights and safety.



For DVROs to effectively serve as a prevention tool, they must be accessible, properly implemented, and effectively enforced.

DVROs are proven to reduce gun violence, including mass shootings.

For years survivors, lawyers, advocates, and providers have been raising concerns about how painful, inconsistent, frustrating, and inaccessible the process of getting a DVRO can be.

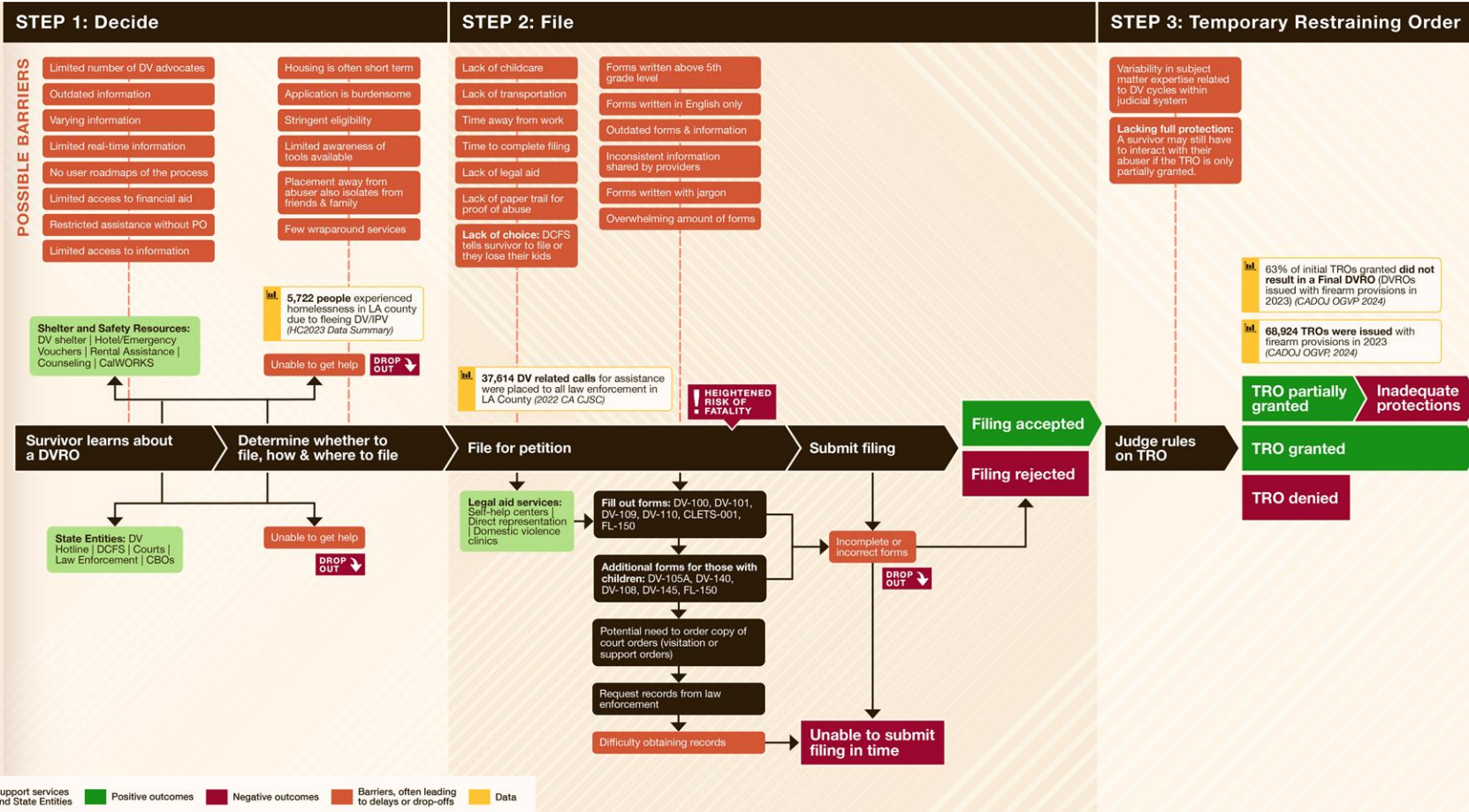


The survivor's journey (steps 1-3)



Survivor: Teresa Aguilar

- 20-30 years old
- Female-identifying
- LA Resident
- Male partner
- Two children under 10 years old
- Earns under \$40,000 per year
- At-risk of being unhoused



int. Almost 1 in 2 women and over 2 in 5 men reported any contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime (2016-2017 NISVS)

int. 63% of initial TROs granted did not result in a Final DVRO (DVROs issued with firearm provisions in 2023) (CADOU OGVIP 2024)

int. 68,924 TROs were issued with firearm provisions in 2023 (CADOU OGVIP 2024)

HEIGHTENED RISK OF FATALITY

The most dangerous time for a survivor of domestic violence is when they decide to assert a boundary or leave their abuser. Thus, obtaining a DVRO puts the survivor at a heightened risk for experiencing an escalation of violence including death. We have highlighted these moments in the map to draw attention to the ever changing landscape a survivor faces attempting to seek protection from their abuser.

Download current map here:



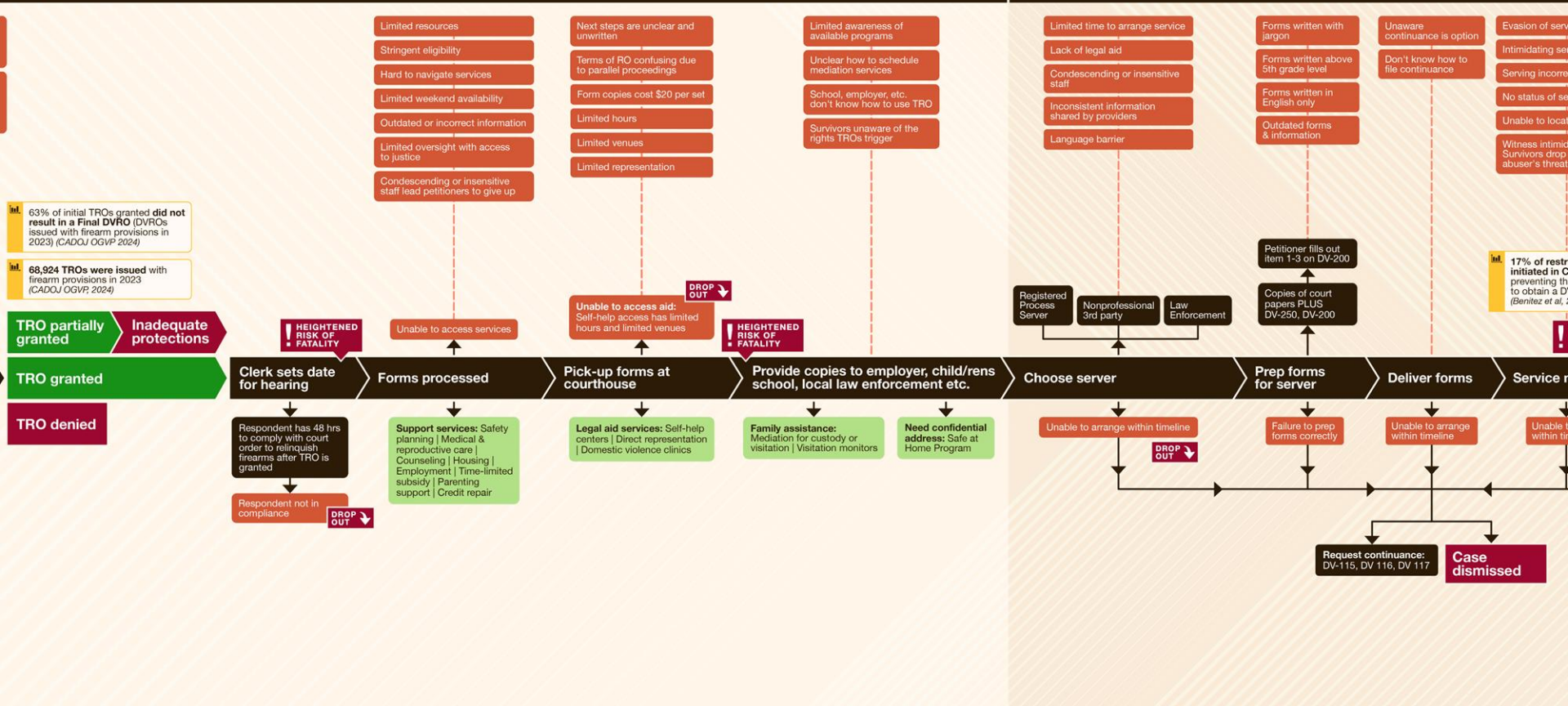
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The survivor's journey (steps 3-4)

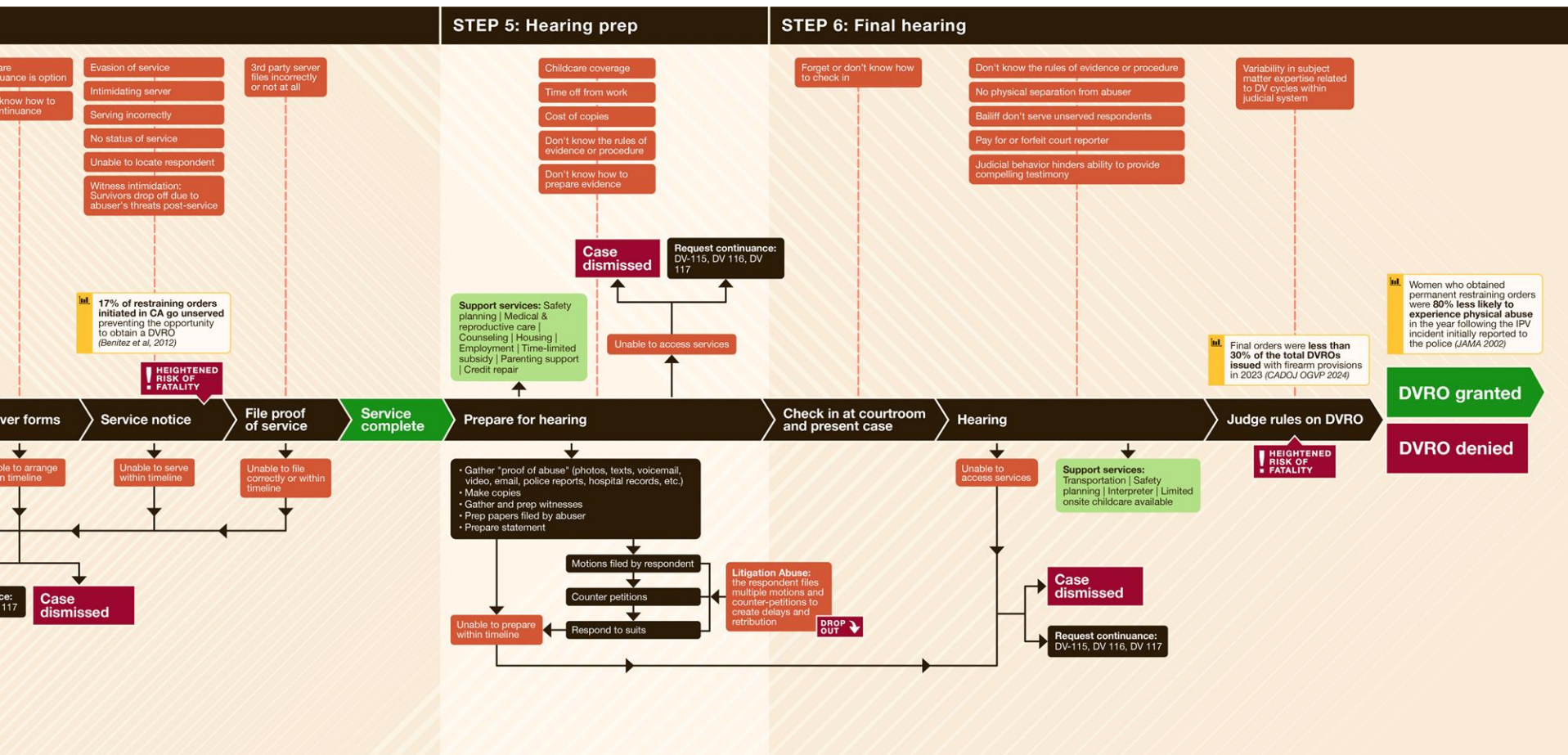
Temporary Restraining Order

STEP 4: Service





The survivor's journey (steps 4-6)



Key barriers to obtaining a DVRO

Heavily Siloed Systems

A high number of handoffs in the process creates a disjointed experience for survivors and removes system accountability from any one county agency.

“Petitioners are constantly interacting with different providers and it’s rarely clear to them what step they should take next.”

“I don’t know who owns the process.”

Highly Variable Information

Information about the process is either lacking, is withheld, is incomplete, is outdated, is incorrect, is shared inconsistently, is written with jargon, or isn’t language accessible.

“There is so much outdated and incorrect information about the process that can result in a survivor being confused and stressed leading them to drop off or even have their case dismissed.”

“Even I struggle to understand the legalese... and I’m trained.”

Fraught with Drop-Out Points

Navigating a siloed and fragmented system that is often trauma-inducing increases the likelihood of survivor attrition.

“It would be like if you were in the hospital and were expected to coordinate your own care team instead of the other way around.”

“We’ve made it too easy to give up on the process.”

Survivors often lack safety & support



Determined

"I need safety."

1 Decide

Unsure

"How will I pay our bills?"

Terrified

"If I file will they find and kill me?"

Terrified

"Will I end up homeless?"

2 File

Unsure

"If I file will they retaliate and share intimate photos of me or call my work?"

Overwhelmed

"My abuser filed a petition against me and now I have to fight their legal abuse."

Overwhelmed

"I don't understand what these forms mean."

3 Temporary Restraining Order

Exhausted

"Can I break my lease? Where will I live?"

Scared

"Should I change my locks?"

Scared

"What should I tell my kids is happening?"

4 Service

Discouraged

"Should I continue child visits?"

Discouraged

"Who should I tell at school, at work, etc.?"

Overlooked

"Can I trust law enforcement?"

5 Hearing prep

Disempowered

"They are constantly pressuring me with texts & calls."

Isolated

"Their family and our friends are constantly pressuring me with texts & calls."

Fatigued

"How long will this process take?"

6 Final hearing

Panicked

"Should I appear in-person or remotely?"

Panicked

"Will they hurt me before I enter court?"

Uncertain

"Will the judge believe me?"



The Future State:

What changes will improve this system?





Vision:

A **human-centered system** that creates a caring, reliable, consistent, and trauma-informed experience for survivors of intimate partner/domestic violence, as well as those working on their behalf.





DVRO System Mapping: Recommendations

13 improvements were proposed by the mapping team to realize the future state.

Idea	Increase Legal Aid	Centralize Information	Embed Peer Navigator Model	Improve Data Tracking	Standardize Training
Problem	Pro per litigants struggle to present admissible evidence and legal arguments needed to secure best outcomes.	Lack of relevant and accurate information in a time, place, and manner needed by survivors.	Attrition due to multiple handoffs, undiscovered and complex support services, isolation and trauma.	Lack of sufficient data/information and common metrics to determine impact/effectiveness of DVRO process.	Unclear understanding about the end-to-end process that increases confusion and stress for survivors.
Proposed Change	Fund legal advocates that guide you through the entire legal process.	Digital platform that serves as a hub for sharing information, available services, resources, and support networks.	Liaison to help survivors navigate through, process and provide care, support, and increase access to resources.	Track and analyze data about the filing and outcome of DVROS.	Create physical boundaries between Petitioner and Respondent in the courtroom (i.e.- require they sit on opposite sides of room).



DVRO System Mapping: Recommendations

Idea	Post DV Informational Fliers	Co-locate Social Services	Extend Emergency Protective Orders	Provide “rights” packet upon DVRO filing
Problem	Lack of available information or lack of safety to access information about DVROs adds another barrier for survivors that want help.	It can be challenging to access support services due to limited awareness, time, transportation, or understanding of how programs work.	Protection often lapses before a TRO can be obtained for many reasons (i.e.- Treating injuries, seeking shelter, etc.)	Survivors unaware they can break leases, change locks, take days off, and other rights upon receiving a TRO.
Proposed Change	Require DV informational fliers be posted in all County facility bathrooms (not just courthouse) and the bathrooms of any agency that contracts with the County.	Co-locate social services within self-help centers at courthouses to improve access and coordination of support services.	21 day Emergency Protective Order (EPO) to give more time to decide & connect with service providers, with option of victim-initiated termination.	Information provided with TRO packet about survivor’s existing housing, immigration and employment rights as applied to DVRO with template letters for exercising those rights.



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Survivors deserve safety & reliability



Determined

"I need safety."

1 Decide

Assured

"I know where to get help."

Trust

"I know my rights."

2 File

Knowledgeable

"I have someone caring to help me."

3 Temporary Restraining Order

Understood

"I have the answers to my question."

Connected

"I'm not alone."

Determined

"The next step is clear to me."

4 Service

Empowered

"I don't have to do this alone."

Seen

"Someone is looking out for me."

5 Hearing prep

Resilient

"Someone has my back."

Cared for

"I feel supported."

Relieved

"I'll be okay."

6 Final hearing

Brave

"I feel reassured."

Hopeful

"I feel ready."

Confident

"I feel heard."



A future state (steps 1-3)

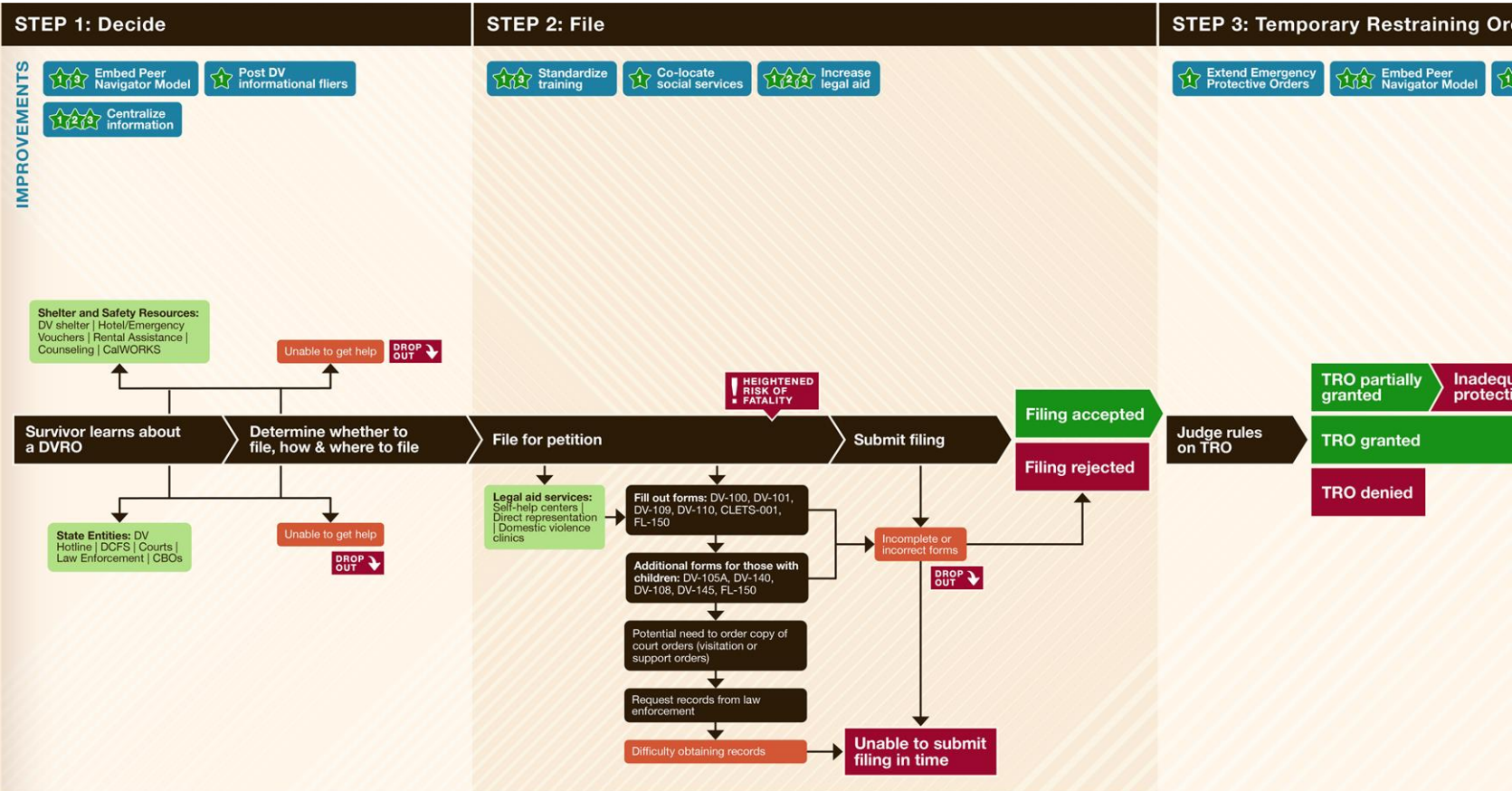


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- 20-30 years old
- Female-identifying
- LA Resident
- Male partner
- Two children under 10 years old
- Earns under \$40,000 per year
- At-risk of being unhoused

12-month Goals

- ★ Increase the number of TROs granted
- ★ Increase the number of DVROs granted
- ★ Decrease the attrition rate between TRO and Final DVRO



LEGEND

- Legal steps
- Support services and State Entities
- Positive outcomes
- Negative outcomes
- Barriers, often leading to delays or drop-offs
- Improvements, achievable in 12 months
- ★ GOAL: Increase the number of TROs granted
- ★ GOAL: Increase the number of DVROs granted
- ★ GOAL: Decrease the attrition rate between TRO and Final DVRO

Download future map here:



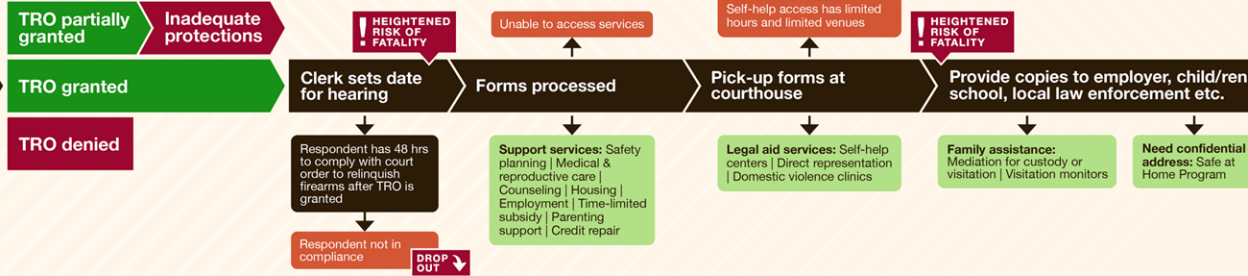
bit.ly/ovp-dvro



A future state (steps 3-4)

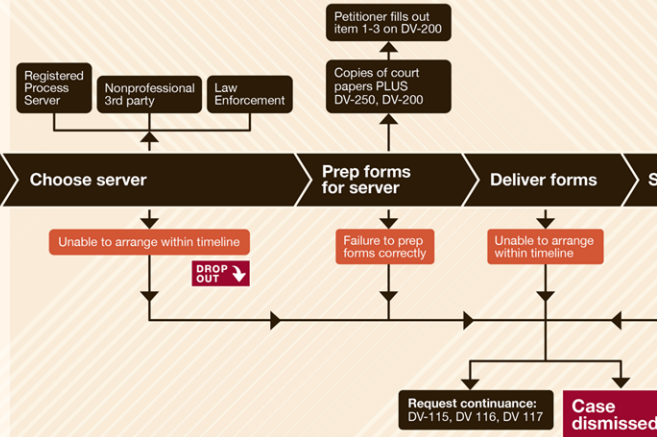
Temporary Restraining Order

- 1 1 2 Embed Peer Navigator Model
- 1 1 2 3 Centralize information
- 1 1 3 Standardize training
- 1 1 Co-locate social services
- 3 Provide "rights" packet upon DVRO filing
- 3 Provide CPO copies upon DVRO filing



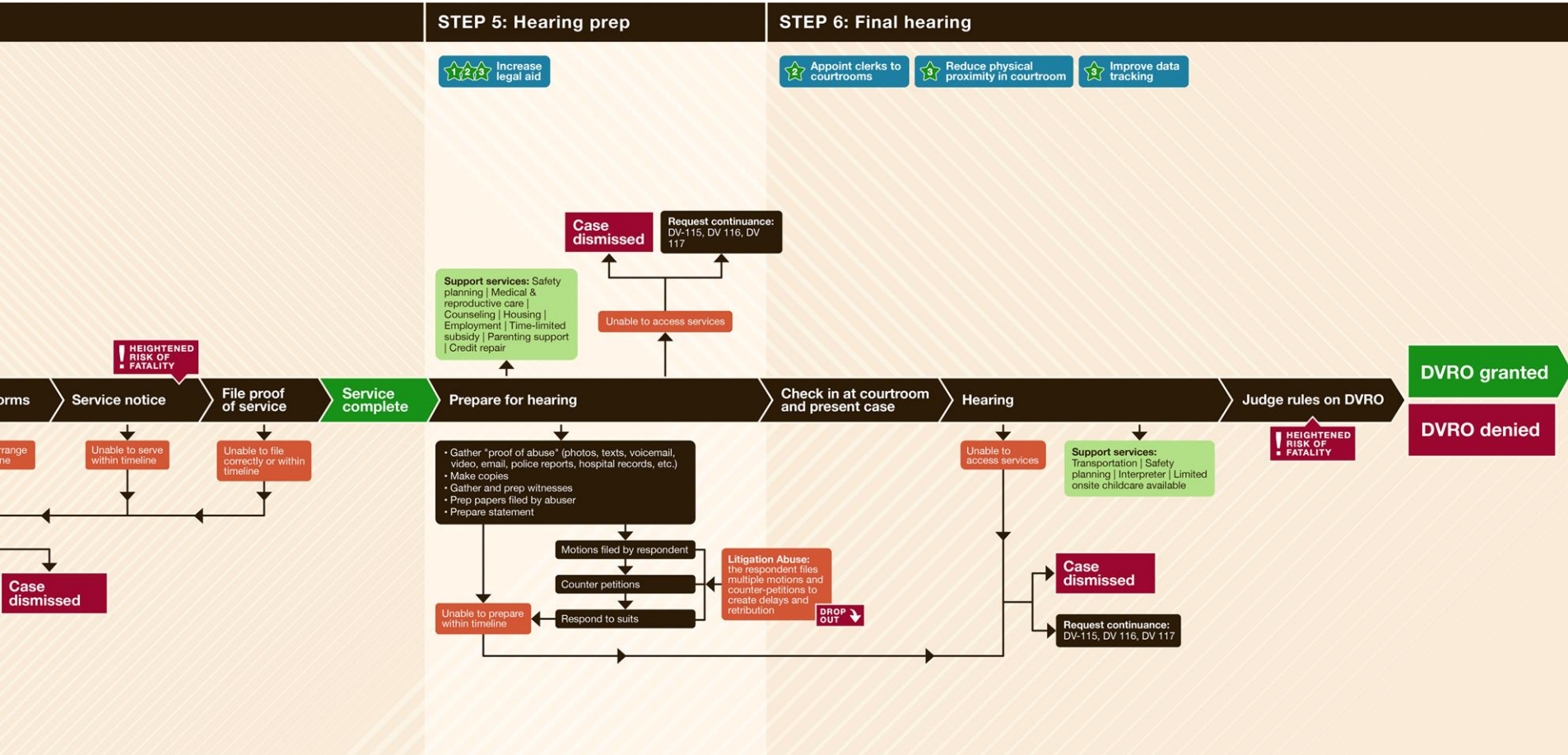
STEP 4: Service

- 3 Standardize notification of service





A future state (steps 4-6)





DVRO Materials

WHAT IS A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER?

DVROs Save Lives.

A Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) is a court order designed to protect a victim and their children from harm or harassment by ordering that the restrained person not contact the protected parties and stay away from the victim's home, workplace, or school, among other orders.

WHAT CAN IT DO?

- Grant exclusive custody of a child or pet
- Order the abuser to vacate a shared residence
- Grant time off from work
- Require the abuser to cover lost wages, attorney fees, child support, spousal support, or medical expenses
- Prohibit the abuser from possessing or purchasing firearms or ammunition

HOW CAN YOU GET A DVRO?

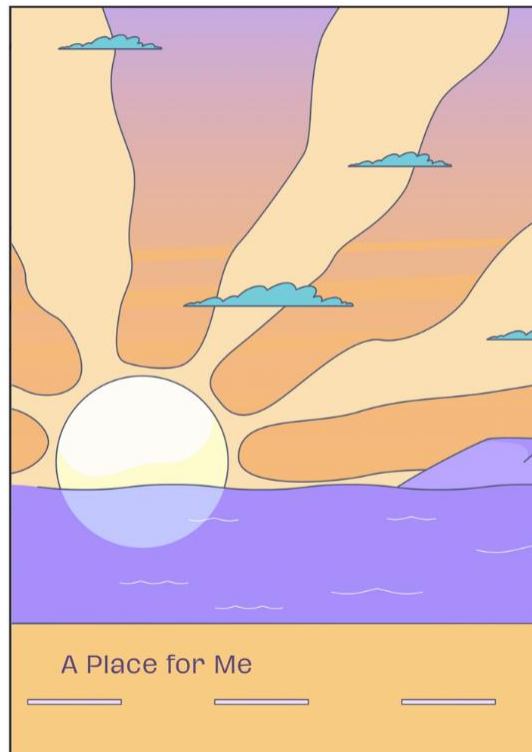
- Contact a Domestic Violence support services agency
- Visit bit.ly/ovp-dvro or scan here to begin
- Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-SAFE



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of behavior used by one person to exert power and control over another in an intimate or close family relationship.

DV can include, but is not limited to, **physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, digital, economic, and/or litigation abuse, and coercive control.** Anyone can be a victim of DV or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) but historically marginalized populations, such as BIPOC women, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, nonbinary, and trans folks are particularly vulnerable.



CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER

Rights Packet

BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2024, the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Council (DVC), brought together a diverse group of partners including survivors, domestic violence providers, community leaders, law enforcement, City and County departments, court representatives, and other service providers to participate in a system mapping workgroup (workgroup).

Partners worked together to identify cross-sector opportunities to overcome barriers and enhance survivors' access to Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVROs) in Los Angeles County. One of the identified barriers is that information about the many benefits and protections provided by a DVRO are not broadly known. Another barrier is that the court process to obtain a DVRO can feel overwhelming and inaccessible to survivors. To address these issues, the workgroup recommended the creation of a DVRO Rights Packet: a user-friendly and interactive toolkit centralizing information about how to petition for a DVRO, navigate service, prepare for court hearings, and seek meaningful enforcement of orders. The following rights package was developed in response to this recommendation and includes information on housing, immigration, and employment rights, as well as template letters for exercising these rights.

Purpose: This DVRO Rights Packet is meant for the person who has filed their Restraining Order request to help ensure that every protection at their disposal is easily accessible and effectively enforced. The Office of Violence Prevention thanks Blue Shield of California for providing the funding for this project, the System Mapping Workgroup for setting the groundwork for this tool's creation, and the Legal Aid Foundation and City Attorney's Office for their work on this resource. Thank you to Stephanie Davidson for your leadership, Pallavi Dhawan for your expertise, and Minty Slu-Kootnikoff for your review.

YOU HAVE PICKED UP YOUR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER PACKET. NOW WHAT?

The first step is reviewing the documents you've received to be sure you fully understand what orders, if any, the Court has issued. These orders are designed to last until your hearing. Once you understand the orders, you'll need to think carefully about what other steps you may need to take to enforce these orders and/or to safety plan for you and your family.

The next step you will need to take is serving the Respondent. All law enforcement must offer this service for free in LA County. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has an office in most courthouses, where you can drop off copies of the documents that need to be served and fill out their service forms. You can do this the same day that you pick up this packet. *Note: Any orders that you receive will expire and the case will be dismissed if you do not attend the hearing listed on the DV-109 form. Even if you have not been able to serve the Respondent, it is important to attend that hearing (virtually or in person) if you want the temporary restraining order to continue.*



bit.ly/ovp-dvro





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THANK YOU

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