

Poughkeepsie AAUW Court Watch Program
FAMILY COURT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

Monitor's Name		Case #	
Petitioner's Name		Petitioner's Attorney	
Respondent's Name		Respondent's Atty	
		AFC - Child(ren)'s Atty	

1. Date _____
2. Judge's name _____
3. Relationship of petitioner/respondent Intimate (or ex-) partners Family members Other
4. Children involved Yes No Reported to have witnessed DV
5. Advocate present Yes No Unknown
6. CPS (Child Protective Agency) Involved Present Not applicable
7. Gender of petitioner Female Male Agency
8. Is it a counter-petition filed by the alleged abuser? Yes No
9. Judge began by clearly presenting the specific issues before him/her that day Yes No

10. ORDER OF PROTECTION – INITIAL PETITION FIRST APPEARANCE OF RESPONDENT FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

11. OP issued today Yes: full stay-away Yes: limited No
 Modification of an existing OP Order was vacated/dropped by judge
 Against petitioner's wishes requested by petitioner settlement
 Order extended due to expiration

12. PROCEEDINGS

- Judge cited key items of OP* Parties informed of expiration date
- Parties instructed on procedure in the case of violations Judge cited consequences if OP is violated
- Petitioner questioned about firearms Yes No Respondent questioned about firearms Yes No
Removal ordered Yes No Removal ordered Yes No
- Judge instructed parties on obtaining attorney
- Petitioner and/or Respondent informed of available and appropriate services or programs.
- Judge appointed an attorney for: Petitioner Respondent Child(ren)
- Judge asked about other criminal matters Judge acknowledged domestic violence
- Other _____

Comments: _____

13. ACTIONS TAKEN (those taken today)

- Judge ordered evaluations (list type below) for: Petitioner Respondent Child(ren)
- Judge ordered counseling/programs (list type below) for: Petitioner Respondent Child(ren)
- Mediation recommended with: Court Referee Mediation Center of DC Others
- Petition settled by ACD (Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal) Petition settled by both parties
- Violation reported: consequences applied Yes No
- Case postponed for Second Call Case adjourned to later date Case referred to trial/date set Case settled

Comments _____

***Key items of Order of Protection may include:**

- Communication restrictions (phone, email, mail, text, social media)
- Physical space restrictions
- Restrictions on third party intervention (define "third party")
- Consequences if violated
- That an OP is an order of the court, issued by the judge, not the petitioner

14. CUSTODY (mark only those actions taken today)

15. Was custody of any kind awarded to the alleged abuser? Yes: Full/Sole Yes: Joint
 No: but is part of decision making process No
16. It was: Decided by judge By settlement of both parties
 A modification to an existing order Temporary Permanent
Issue resolved Yes No If No was it due to: Decision postponed Additional information required
 Other – Please explain _____
17. Comments: _____

18. VISITATION (mark only those actions taken today)

19. Was visitation of any kind awarded to the alleged abuser? Yes No
20. It was: Decided by judge By settlement of both parties A modification to an existing order
 Temporary Permanent Supervised visits in private or agency program
 Supervised visits with agreed-upon 3rd party Unsupervised visits
Issue resolved Yes No If No was it due to: Decision postponed Additional information required
 Other – Please explain _____
21. Comments: _____

22. OTHER COURTROOM OBSERVATIONS (EXPLAIN ALL ITEMS CHECKED)

- Alienation: Parental alienation (or PAS) mentioned in any way by any party (Attempt to influence or keep children away from other party) Judge admonished parties
- Attitude: Judge Petitioner's Attorney Respondent's Attorney AFC (attorney for the child)
 Court Officers Others Description: Condescending Impatient Irritable
- Audibility/ Distraction: The proceedings are compromised (reason) _____
- Clarity: Parties do NOT appear to understand the proceedings. Judge clarified yes no
- No-shows: Parties expected are NOT in attendance - AFC (Attorney for the Child) CPS (Child Protective Services)
 Petitioner Respondent: **Petition not served** **Petitioner unaware of responsibility to serve petition**
 Location unknown
- Not Prepared: Judge Petitioner's Attorney Respondent's Attorney CPS AFC
 Attorney previously assigned had not spoken to client
- Questions: Judge asked if party had any questions Yes No
- Settlement/Resolution: Judge went over the settlement carefully with the parties. Yes No
- Special needs: Accommodations made for interpreter or disability. Yes No
- Victim's input: Judge's decision conflicted, disregarded or ignored victim's concerns
- Victim's safety: considered Yes No
in: courtroom judge's decisions (visitation, removal of OP restrictions, etc.)

Explanation & Comments _____

23. OPTIONAL: Your General Observation & Recommendations: (such as how the Petitioner/Respondent was treated, attorney's feelings toward client, attitude of judge) _____

Cite any vocabulary or terms you heard in court, but do not know. _____