



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2022

Filing for emergency after hours orders of protection to move online

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Circuit Clerk Tom Barr announces that his office in collaboration with the agencies listed below will soon release an online portal expanding services and enabling citizens who have been subject to domestic violence, or who have been the victim of stalking or sexual assault to apply for an ex parte order of protection at any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

An ex parte order of protection is a temporary protection order issued by a judge in cases where respondent is alleged to have committed domestic violence or stalking of the petitioner or protected child. The order generally prohibits the respondent from entering petitioner's home, place of work, or school, and from communicating with the petitioner.

As always, if a citizen feels they are in immediate danger, they should call 911 and seek assistance from law enforcement.

A citizen may file an ex parte order for protection petition in person at the Greene County Circuit Clerk's Office located on the second floor of the County Judicial Courts Facility at 1010 N Boonville Ave in Springfield when the courthouse is open, Monday through Friday, 8:00am until 5:00pm (excluding holidays).

While the new online portal is being completed, Circuit Clerk Tom Barr is expanding other temporary options to make sure citizens can file a petition for an ex parte order of protection after hours, on weekends, and holidays. Citizens can call the deputy clerk at **(417) 407-0358**. The clerk will be available as follows:

Monday – Friday,	5:00pm until 8:00pm.
Saturday- Sunday,	9:00am until 6:00pm
Holidays,	9:00am until 6:00pm.

The deputy clerk will assist the citizen with this process. Calling the deputy clerk will not result in law enforcement coming to their location.

It is important to remember that obtaining an ex parte order of protection is only one part of a safety plan and may not be advisable in all circumstances. Community resources also provide help. Assistance with an order of protection application, safety planning, and other resources are available free of charge at the Greene County Family Justice Center located at 1418 E Pythian in Springfield, (417) 874-2600, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday excluding holidays. If a citizen is in crisis and needs assistance with safety planning and resources such as applying for an emergency ex parte order of protection or accessing resources, The Victim Center’s hotline, (417) 864-7233 (SAFE), provides 24-hour crisis response and assistance free of charge to victims.

When completed, the new online filing portal will be available to citizens 24/7 and will walk them through step by step how to file out the necessary details in the document. More information will be released when the portal is active.



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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact Robert Jehle, Public Information Officer, at 417-844-4311 or rjehle@greencountymo.gov.