



Extending Project Passport

Genesis and Goals of the Project

The goal of Extending Project Passport is to build upon the earlier success of the original Project Passport. Project Passport was designed to improve recognition and enforcement of orders of protection within and between states and tribes by encouraging states and tribes to adopt a recognizable first page for orders of protection (i.e., by including common elements and format). The model template for this first page was originally developed through a regional effort led by Kentucky with its seven surrounding states. The Southeast, led by Alabama with seven of its neighboring states and tribes, subsequently led a similar initiative. Two *Extending Project Passport* western regional meetings held in the last year have introduced the model template to an additional sixteen states, three U.S. territories and tribes in that region. Many of the states in attendance at these meetings either have already adopted the model template or are in the process of adopting the recognizable first page for their orders of protection.

A growing number of tribes have also either already adopted, or are in the process of considering adopting, the model template first page for their tribal protection orders. Tribes in Alabama, California, Oklahoma, and Montana have adopted the model template. Other tribes considering its adoption include tribes in Nevada, Washington, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming and Alaska. The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) fully supports this initiative and recently passed a formal resolution supporting Project Passport and encourages its members to participate in all efforts related to Project Passport. The National Tribal Justice Resource Center (NTJRC) is a partner in this initiative and co-sponsored the Phoenix meeting for *Extending Project Passport*.

The critical aspects of the model template for the first page are common data elements jointly identified by multi-disciplinary teams. Without this essential data readily available and easily recognizable on an order of protection - especially on "foreign protection orders" (i.e., a protection order issued in another jurisdiction outside of the enforcing jurisdiction) - verifying a protection order's authenticity, the proper identification of presenting parties at the point of enforcement, and securing the safety of a domestic violence survivor (and potential others) are in jeopardy. This is especially true in instances of cross-jurisdictional and tribal jurisdiction enforcement of protection orders issued elsewhere.

Using a recognizable first page for protection orders helps strengthen the safety net for battered women and their children by offering greater consistency in the issuance and enforcement of orders of protection. Nearly two-thirds of the country have now been introduced to the use of the model template and its potential to strengthen and enlarge the

safety net for domestic violence survivors - regardless of where they live or where the protection order was issued.

A major component of this project is also the promotion and use of XML (Extensible Markup Language) technology to improve the comparability of data entered in protection order registries across jurisdictions. For those interested in the potential to enhance electronic sharing of protection order data, a new XML-based (Extensible Markup Language) first page for protection orders based on the model template has also been developed and introduced. The use of XML has the potential to create an environment in which data can be easily exchanged between various court case management systems, protection order registries, and the National Crime Information Center Protection Order File (NCIC POF).

Project Team Dynamics

This collaborative effort builds upon the Regional Meetings on Full Faith and Credit convened by the National Center for State Courts in partnership with the National Center on Full Faith and Credit (NCFFC), a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), and the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ). Our partners for Extending Project Passport once again include the NCFFC, NCJA, COSCA, and CCJ, as well as the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA), the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), and the National Tribal Justice Resource Center (NTJRC).

Contact Information

For more information about this project, please contact Denise O. Dancy, Project Director at the National Center for State Courts: 757-259-1593 or ddancy@ncsc.dni.us.