

## Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order?**

A Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) is a court order issued by a judge as part of a criminal case that makes it a crime for the defendant (the person charged with the crime) to have contact with the victim(s). Contact includes in person, phone, text, on social media or through a third party. A DANCO can also exclude a defendant from a shared residence.

#### **How will I know if a DANCO has been ordered?**

The City Attorney's Office will call you and let you know and will also mail you a copy of the DANCO.

***Make sure we have your most up-to-date mailing address, phone number and email.***

#### **Why did the judge order a DANCO?**

DANCOs are issued when a judge is concerned for a person's safety.

#### **How do I get a DANCO cancelled or modified?**

Contact our office and we will let the judge know. Judges will consider your request at the next scheduled hearing. Judges do not consider lifting DANCOs between hearings. Our office may also express an opinion to the judge as to whether we feel a DANCO should be cancelled or modified.

#### **What happens if there is a DANCO in place and the defendant contacts me?**

Contact the police. The defendant could face arrest and additional criminal charges.

#### **We live at the same place. Where is the defendant supposed to go?**

They will have to find another place to stay until the case is resolved and/or the DANCO is cancelled.

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### Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

#### **The defendant has medication/clothes at our shared residence. How will they get them?**

The defendant can request a one-time police escort to pick up items. This will be written on the DANCO. If you are unsure whether or not a one-time police escort was granted or have questions about how that process works, contact the City Attorney's Office.

#### **How are we supposed to communicate about our children?**

If minor children are not listed on a DANCO there is nothing prohibiting a defendant from having contact with them. The City Attorney's Office can ask the judge to allow "third party contact" to assist in childcare and exchanges. Third parties are friends or relatives willing to share information back and forth. Contact our office if you would like to designate a third party.

#### **What is the difference between a DANCO and an Order for Protection (OFP)?**

A DANCO is put in place by a judge as part of a criminal proceeding. An OFP is requested by an individual and is a civil matter. If you have an OFP you can cancel or amend it at any time; only a judge can cancel or modify a DANCO. It is possible to have both a DANCO and an OFP in place at the same time. Cancelling an OFP does not mean that the DANCO gets cancelled.



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