



Protective Orders in Texas

Thursday, November 12

2:00pm-3:30pm

Protective Orders in Texas: The Basics & Beyond

It is often said that a protective order (PO) is just a “piece of paper.” However, effective use of this document is often the key to enhancing investigation, prosecution, and accountability of family violence and other offenders, while also enhancing safety for survivors, their families, law enforcement, and the community at large.

Beginning with the basics, including types of POs available in Texas and how they intersect with civil and criminal law, the presenter will then take a deep dive into tips for effective investigation and documentation when assisting survivors with PO decisions, as well as best practices and pitfalls surrounding state and federal enforcement of firearm prohibitions. The webinar will end with a discussion of the Office of Court Administration’s newly-created Protective Order Registry, which can assist criminal justice personnel in preventing the escalation of violence; conducting more thorough investigations; pursuing successful prosecutions; providing more effective safety planning for survivors and their families; and holding more offenders accountable for their crimes.

Accreditation available for Social Work

Presenter

Kimberly Piechowiak has been the Domestic Violence Training Attorney for the Texas Office of Court Administration since 2012. She received her B.A. in Criminal Justice in 1989 from UTSA and her J.D. from St. Mary’s University School of Law in 1992. Before coming to the OCA, Kimberly prosecuted family violence cases for 20 years, first with the Bexar County District Attorney and then the San Antonio City Attorney’s Office. While with the City, Kimberly implemented and supervised the family violence prosecution program at San Antonio Municipal Court. She is a TCOLE Certified Police Instructor who has been training law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges since 1997 on the issue of domestic violence for many local, state, and national agencies, including the San Antonio Police Training Academy, the National District Attorneys Association, the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Texas Criminal Justice Information Users Group, and the Conference on Crimes Against Women.

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This free training is presented by the Institute for Coordinated Community Response, a program of the National Conference on Crimes Against Women.