



Judiciary of Guam

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Judiciary Expands Access to Protection Orders through New Online Tool

(Hagåtña) Recognizing that the hardest step for many is simply getting to the courthouse, the Judiciary of Guam has launched a new online tool that allows individuals to prepare and file civil protection orders—safely, securely, and from any computer or mobile device.

Developed in partnership with LegalAtoms, the secure platform guides users through a series of plain-language questions to help them prepare and e-file forms for civil and family law matters, including domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault protection orders.

The initiative reflects the Judiciary's commitment, under Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, to making the courts more accessible and responsive to individuals who may face barriers such as transportation, work schedules, or safety concerns. The service also allows individuals to report a violation of an existing order.

“Not everyone can walk into a courthouse when they need help,” said Chief Justice Torres. ***“This new tool gives people another way to reach us—safely and on their own terms. It meets people where they are and helps them take that first, often most difficult, step.”***

The project was led by Superior Court Judge Elyze M. Iriarte, who spearheaded the first major revision to Guam's protective-order rules in more than a decade.

How It Works

1. **Screening:** The process begins with an online screening tool that helps determine the appropriate case type and forms based on each user's situation.
2. **Preparing and Filing:** After answering guided questions, the platform automatically completes the required forms and allows users to either submit them electronically or in-person for filing to the Superior Court, Clerk's Office, at no cost. The platform does not offer assistance for those seeking anti-harassment actions filed as civil restraining orders or injunctions. Once an order of protection is submitted electronically for filing, a clerk will communicate via email and/or phone with any follow-up questions or instructions.
3. **Advocate Support:** Users may connect with free legal service providers in Guam for additional guidance, document review, or safety planning.

“This tool is part of our ongoing effort to build a modern court system,” concluded Administrator of the Courts Danielle T. Rosete. ***“Our goal was to make it easier—and safer—for people to ask the court for protection. We hope this platform helps bridge the gap between someone deciding they need help and actually being able to get it.”***

The platform can be accessed through the Judiciary's website at <https://legalatoms.com/guam/>.