

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 561**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva**

February 12, 2025

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An act to amend Section 527.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, *to amend Sections 6307 and 6308 of the Family Code*, and to amend Section 15657.03 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to restraining orders.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 561, as amended, Quirk-Silva. Restraining orders.

(1) Existing law authorizes a person who has suffered harassment, as defined, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order prohibiting harassment. Existing law prohibits a filing fee for, and a fee for the service of process by a sheriff or marshal of, a protective or restraining order if the order is based upon stalking, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence.

This bill would authorize a petitioner, at no cost, to file a petition for a protective or restraining order electronically and remotely appear at the hearing if the order is based upon stalking, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence. ~~The bill would require the Judicial Council to prepare and develop related forms.~~

(2) *Existing law requires a court or court facility that receives petitions for domestic violence restraining orders to permit the petitions and related filings to be submitted electronically, as specified. Existing law requires the superior court of each county to develop local rules and instructions for remote appearances and requires them to be posted on the court’s internet website.*

*This bill would require a court or court facility that receives petitions for domestic violence restraining orders to accept electronic filings at no charge to the petitioner, and would prohibit a superior court from charging a fee for a party, support person, or witness to appear remotely at a domestic violence restraining order hearing.*

~~(2)~~

(3) Existing law authorizes an elder or dependent adult who has suffered abuse to seek protective orders.

~~This bill would require, by April 1, 2026, require a court or court facility that receives petitions for protective orders for elder or dependent adults to permit those petitions and any filings related to those petitions to be submitted electronically, as specified. The bill would authorize a party party, representative of the county adult protective services agency, or witness to appear remotely for free at the hearing on a petition for a protective order for an elder or dependent adult., adult, and prohibit the superior court from charging a fee for the remote appearance. The bill would require the superior court of each county to develop, and post on its internet website, local rules and instructions regarding electronic filing and remote appearances for protective orders for elder or dependent adults. The bill would require the superior court of each county to provide telephone numbers to call to obtain assistance regarding electronic filing and remote appearances. The bill would require information regarding electronic filing and access to the court's self-help center to be prominently displayed on each superior court's home page, and require each self-help center to maintain and make available information related to elder abuse restraining orders. The bill would authorize the Judicial Council to adopt or amend rules and forms to implement these provisions.~~

Existing law, upon the filing of a petition for protective orders for an elder or dependent adult, requires the respondent to be personally served with a copy of the petition, notice of the hearing or order to show cause, temporary restraining order, if any, and any declarations in support of the petition, at least five days before the hearing.

This bill would authorize a court to permit an alternative method of service, as specified, if at the time of a hearing with respect to an order issued based on an ex parte temporary protective order, the court determines that, after diligent effort, the petitioner has been unable to accomplish personal service, and that there is reason to believe that the restrained party is evading ~~service. service or cannot be located.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 527.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure is  
2 amended to read:

3 527.6. (a) (1) A person who has suffered harassment as  
4 defined in subdivision (b) may seek a temporary restraining order  
5 and an order after hearing prohibiting harassment as provided in  
6 this section. *The petition and any filings related to the petition*  
7 *may be submitted electronically, as provided in Section 6307 of*  
8 *the Family Code.*

9 (2) An individual need not be a resident of the state to file a  
10 petition for an order under this section. A petition for an order as  
11 specified in paragraph (1) may be filed in any superior court in  
12 this state, consistent with Section 410.10 of the Code of Civil  
13 Procedure, which may include, but is not limited to:

14 (A) The county in which the petitioner resides or is temporarily  
15 located.

16 (B) The county in which the defendant resides.

17 (C) The county in which the offense occurred.

18 (D) Any other court that may have jurisdiction over the parties  
19 or the subject matter of the case.

20 (3) A minor, under 12 years of age, accompanied by a duly  
21 appointed and acting guardian ad litem, shall be permitted to appear  
22 in court without counsel for the limited purpose of requesting or  
23 opposing a request for a temporary restraining order or order after  
24 hearing, or both, under this section as provided in Section 374.

25 (b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
26 following meanings:

27 (1) "Course of conduct" is a pattern of conduct composed of a  
28 series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a  
29 continuity of purpose, including following or stalking an individual,  
30 making harassing telephone calls to an individual, or sending  
31 harassing correspondence to an individual by any means, including,  
32 but not limited to, the use of public or private mails, interoffice  
33 mail, facsimile, or email. Constitutionally protected activity is not  
34 included within the meaning of "course of conduct."

1 (2) “Credible threat of violence” is a knowing and willful  
2 statement or course of conduct that would place a reasonable person  
3 in fear for the person’s safety or the safety of the person’s  
4 immediate family, and that serves no legitimate purpose.

5 (3) “Harassment” is unlawful violence, a credible threat of  
6 violence, or a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at  
7 a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, or harasses the  
8 person, and that serves no legitimate purpose. The course of  
9 conduct must be that which would cause a reasonable person to  
10 suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause  
11 substantial emotional distress to the petitioner.

12 (4) “Petitioner” means the person to be protected by the  
13 temporary restraining order and order after hearing and, if the court  
14 grants the petition, the protected person.

15 (5) “Respondent” means the person against whom the temporary  
16 restraining order and order after hearing are sought and, if the  
17 petition is granted, the restrained person.

18 (6) “Temporary restraining order” and “order after hearing”  
19 mean orders that include any of the following restraining orders,  
20 whether issued ex parte or after notice and hearing:

21 (A) An order enjoining a party from harassing, intimidating,  
22 molesting, attacking, striking, stalking, threatening, sexually  
23 assaulting, battering, abusing, telephoning, including, but not  
24 limited to, making annoying telephone calls, as described in Section  
25 653m of the Penal Code, destroying personal property, contacting,  
26 either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise, or coming within  
27 a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, the petitioner.  
28 On a showing of good cause, in an order issued pursuant to this  
29 subparagraph in connection with an animal owned, possessed,  
30 leased, kept, or held by the petitioner, or residing in the residence  
31 or household of the petitioner, the court may do either or both of  
32 the following:

33 (i) Grant the petitioner exclusive care, possession, or control of  
34 the animal.

35 (ii) Order the respondent to stay away from the animal and  
36 refrain from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing,  
37 molesting, attacking, striking, threatening, harming, or otherwise  
38 disposing of the animal.

1 (B) An order enjoining a party from specified behavior that the  
2 court determines is necessary to effectuate orders described in  
3 subparagraph (A).

4 (7) “Unlawful violence” is any assault or battery, or stalking as  
5 prohibited in Section 646.9 of the Penal Code, but does not include  
6 lawful acts of self-defense or defense of others.

7 (c) In the discretion of the court, on a showing of good cause,  
8 a temporary restraining order or order after hearing issued under  
9 this section may include other named family or household  
10 members.

11 (d) Upon filing a petition for orders under this section, the  
12 petitioner may obtain a temporary restraining order in accordance  
13 with Section 527, except to the extent this section provides an  
14 inconsistent rule. The temporary restraining order may include  
15 any of the restraining orders described in paragraph (6) of  
16 subdivision (b). A temporary restraining order may be issued with  
17 or without notice, based on a declaration that, to the satisfaction  
18 of the court, shows reasonable proof of harassment of the petitioner  
19 by the respondent, and that great or irreparable harm would result  
20 to the petitioner.

21 (e) A request for the issuance of a temporary restraining order  
22 without notice under this section shall be granted or denied on the  
23 same day that the petition is submitted to the court. If the petition  
24 is filed too late in the day to permit effective review, the order  
25 shall be granted or denied on the next day of judicial business in  
26 sufficient time for the order to be filed that day with the clerk of  
27 the court.

28 (f) A temporary restraining order issued under this section shall  
29 remain in effect, at the court’s discretion, for a period not to exceed  
30 21 days, or, if the court extends the time for hearing under  
31 subdivision (g), not to exceed 25 days, unless otherwise modified  
32 or terminated by the court.

33 (g) Within 21 days, or, if good cause appears to the court, 25  
34 days from the date that a petition for a temporary order is granted  
35 or denied, a hearing shall be held on the petition. If a request for  
36 a temporary order is not made, the hearing shall be held within 21  
37 days, or, if good cause appears to the court, 25 days, from the date  
38 that the petition is filed.

1 (h) The respondent may file a response that explains, excuses,  
2 justifies, or denies the alleged harassment, or may file a  
3 cross-petition under this section.

4 (i) (1) At the hearing, the judge shall receive any testimony  
5 that is relevant, and may make an independent inquiry. If the judge  
6 finds by clear and convincing evidence that unlawful harassment  
7 exists, an order shall issue prohibiting the harassment.

8 (2) *The parties may appear remotely at the hearing, as provided*  
9 *in Section 6308 of the Family Code.*

10 (j) (1) In the discretion of the court, an order issued after notice  
11 and hearing under this section may have a duration of no more  
12 than five years, subject to termination or modification by further  
13 order of the court either on written stipulation filed with the court  
14 or on the motion of a party. The order may be renewed, upon the  
15 request of a party, for a duration of no more than five additional  
16 years, without a showing of any further harassment since the  
17 issuance of the original order, subject to termination or  
18 modification by further order of the court either on written  
19 stipulation filed with the court or on the motion of a party. A  
20 request for renewal may be brought any time within the three  
21 months before the order expires.

22 (2) The failure to state the expiration date on the face of the  
23 form creates an order with a duration of three years from the date  
24 of issuance.

25 (3) If an action is filed for the purpose of terminating or  
26 modifying a protective order before the expiration date specified  
27 in the order by a party other than the protected party, the party  
28 who is protected by the order shall be given notice, pursuant to  
29 subdivision (b) of Section 1005, of the proceeding by personal  
30 service or, if the protected party has satisfied the requirements of  
31 Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 6205) of Division 7 of  
32 Title 1 of the Government Code, by service on the Secretary of  
33 State. If the party who is protected by the order cannot be notified  
34 before the hearing for modification or termination of the protective  
35 order, the court shall deny the motion to modify or terminate the  
36 order without prejudice or continue the hearing until the party who  
37 is protected can be properly noticed and may, upon a showing of  
38 good cause, specify another method for service of process that is  
39 reasonably designed to afford actual notice to the protected party.  
40 The protected party may waive the protected party's right to notice

1 if the protected party is physically present in court and does not  
2 challenge the sufficiency of the notice.

3 (k) This section does not preclude either party from  
4 representation by private counsel or from appearing on the party's  
5 own behalf.

6 (l) In a proceeding under this section, if there are allegations of  
7 unlawful violence or credible threats of violence, a support person  
8 may accompany a party in court and, if the party is not represented  
9 by an attorney, may sit with the party at the table that is generally  
10 reserved for the party and the party's attorney. The support person  
11 is present to provide moral and emotional support for a person  
12 who alleges they are a victim of violence. The support person is  
13 not present as a legal adviser and may not provide legal advice.  
14 The support person may assist the person who alleges they are a  
15 victim of violence in feeling more confident that they will not be  
16 injured or threatened by the other party during the proceedings if  
17 the person who alleges the person is a victim of violence and the  
18 other party are required to be present in close proximity. This  
19 subdivision does not preclude the court from exercising its  
20 discretion to remove the support person from the courtroom if the  
21 court believes the support person is prompting, swaying, or  
22 influencing the party assisted by the support person.

23 (m) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), upon the filing of  
24 a petition under this section, the respondent shall be personally  
25 served with a copy of the petition, temporary restraining order, if  
26 any, and notice of hearing of the petition. Service shall be made  
27 at least five days before the hearing. The court may for good cause,  
28 on motion of the petitioner or on its own motion, shorten the time  
29 for service on the respondent.

30 (2) If the court determines at the hearing that, after a diligent  
31 effort, the petitioner has been unable to accomplish personal  
32 service, and that there is reason to believe that the respondent is  
33 evading service or cannot be located, then the court may specify  
34 another method of service that is reasonably calculated to give  
35 actual notice to the respondent and may prescribe the manner in  
36 which proof of service shall be made.

37 (n) A notice of hearing under this section shall notify the  
38 respondent that if the respondent does not attend the hearing, the  
39 court may make orders against the respondent that could last up  
40 to five years.

1 (o) The respondent shall be entitled, as a matter of course, to  
2 one continuance, for a reasonable period, to respond to the petition.

3 (p) (1) Either party may request a continuance of the hearing,  
4 which the court shall grant on a showing of good cause. The request  
5 may be made in writing before or at the hearing, or orally at the  
6 hearing. The court may also grant a continuance on its own motion.

7 (2) If the court grants a continuance, any temporary restraining  
8 order that has been granted shall remain in effect until the end of  
9 the continued hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the court. In  
10 granting a continuance, the court may modify or terminate a  
11 temporary restraining order.

12 (q) (1) If a respondent named in a restraining order issued after  
13 a hearing has not been served personally with the order but has  
14 received actual notice of the existence and substance of the order  
15 through personal appearance in court to hear the terms of the order  
16 from the court, additional proof of service is not required for  
17 enforcement of the order.

18 (2) If the respondent named in a temporary restraining order is  
19 personally served with the order and notice of hearing with respect  
20 to a restraining order or protective order based on the temporary  
21 restraining order, but the respondent does not appear at the hearing,  
22 either personally or by an attorney, and the terms and conditions  
23 of the restraining order or protective order issued at the hearing  
24 are identical to the temporary restraining order, except for the  
25 duration of the order, the restraining order or protective order  
26 issued at the hearing may be served on the respondent by first-class  
27 mail sent to the respondent at the most current address for the  
28 respondent available to the court.

29 (3) The Judicial Council form for temporary orders issued  
30 pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a statement in  
31 substantially the following form:

32  
33 “If you have been personally served with this temporary  
34 restraining order and notice of hearing, but you do not appear at  
35 the hearing either in person or by a lawyer, and a restraining order  
36 that is the same as this temporary restraining order except for the  
37 expiration date is issued at the hearing, a copy of the restraining  
38 order will be served on you by mail at the following address: \_\_\_\_.

39 If that address is not correct or you wish to verify that the  
40 temporary restraining order was converted to a restraining order



1 at the hearing without substantive change and to find out the  
2 duration of that order, contact the clerk of the court.”

3  
4 (4) If information about a minor has been made confidential  
5 pursuant to subdivision (v), the notice shall identify the  
6 information, specifically, that has been made confidential and shall  
7 include a statement that disclosure or misuse of that information  
8 is punishable as a contempt of court.

9 (r) (1) Information on a temporary restraining order or order  
10 after hearing relating to civil harassment issued by a court pursuant  
11 to this section shall be transmitted to the Department of Justice in  
12 accordance with either paragraph (2) or (3).

13 (2) The court shall order the petitioner or the attorney for the  
14 petitioner to deliver a copy of an order issued under this section,  
15 or reissuance, extension, modification, or termination of the order,  
16 and any subsequent proof of service, by the close of the business  
17 day on which the order, reissuance, extension, modification, or  
18 termination was made, to a law enforcement agency having  
19 jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner and to any  
20 additional law enforcement agencies within the court’s discretion  
21 as are requested by the petitioner.

22 (3) Alternatively, the court or its designee shall transmit, within  
23 one business day, to law enforcement personnel all information  
24 required under subdivision (b) of Section 6380 of the Family Code  
25 regarding any order issued under this section, or a reissuance,  
26 extension, modification, or termination of the order, and any  
27 subsequent proof of service, by either one of the following  
28 methods:

29 (A) Transmitting a physical copy of the order or proof of service  
30 to a local law enforcement agency authorized by the Department  
31 of Justice to enter orders into the California Law Enforcement  
32 Telecommunications System (CLETS).

33 (B) With the approval of the Department of Justice, entering  
34 the order or proof of service into CLETS directly.

35 (4) Each appropriate law enforcement agency shall make  
36 available information as to the existence and current status of  
37 orders issued under this section to law enforcement officers  
38 responding to the scene of reported harassment.

39 (5) An order issued under this section shall, on request of the  
40 petitioner, be served on the respondent, whether or not the

1 respondent has been taken into custody, by any law enforcement  
2 officer who is present at the scene of reported harassment involving  
3 the parties to the proceeding. The petitioner shall provide the  
4 officer with an endorsed copy of the order and a proof of service  
5 that the officer shall complete and send to the issuing court.

6 (6) Upon receiving information at the scene of an incident of  
7 harassment that a protective order has been issued under this  
8 section, or that a person who has been taken into custody is the  
9 subject of an order, if the protected person cannot produce a  
10 certified copy of the order, a law enforcement officer shall  
11 immediately attempt to verify the existence of the order.

12 (7) If the law enforcement officer determines that a protective  
13 order has been issued but not served, the officer shall immediately  
14 notify the respondent of the terms of the order and shall at that  
15 time also enforce the order. Verbal notice of the terms of the order  
16 shall constitute service of the order and is sufficient notice for  
17 purposes of this section and for purposes of Section 29825 of the  
18 Penal Code. Verbal notice shall include the information required  
19 pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (q).

20 (s) The prevailing party in an action brought pursuant to this  
21 section may be awarded court costs and attorney's fees, if any.

22 (t) Willful disobedience of a temporary restraining order or  
23 order after hearing granted pursuant to this section is punishable  
24 pursuant to Section 273.6 of the Penal Code.

25 (u) (1) A person subject to a protective order issued pursuant  
26 to this section shall not own, possess, purchase, receive, or attempt  
27 to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while the protective  
28 order is in effect.

29 (2) The court shall order a person subject to a protective order  
30 issued pursuant to this section to relinquish any firearms the person  
31 owns or possesses pursuant to Section 527.9.

32 (3) A person who owns, possesses, purchases, or receives, or  
33 attempts to purchase or receive, a firearm or ammunition while  
34 the protective order is in effect is punishable pursuant to Section  
35 29825 of the Penal Code.

36 (v) (1) A minor or the minor's legal guardian may petition the  
37 court to have information regarding the minor that was obtained  
38 in connection with a request for a protective order pursuant to this  
39 section, including, but not limited to, the minor's name, address,

1 and the circumstances surrounding the request for a protective  
2 order with respect to that minor, be kept confidential.

3 (2) The court may order the information specified in paragraph  
4 (1) be kept confidential if the court expressly finds all of the  
5 following:

6 (A) The minor's right to privacy overcomes the right of public  
7 access to the information.

8 (B) There is a substantial probability that the minor's interest  
9 will be prejudiced if the information is not kept confidential.

10 (C) The order to keep the information confidential is narrowly  
11 tailored.

12 (D) No less restrictive means exist to protect the minor's  
13 privacy.

14 (3) (A) If the request is granted, except as provided in paragraph  
15 (4), information regarding the minor shall be maintained in a  
16 confidential case file and shall not become part of the public file  
17 in the proceeding or any other civil proceeding involving the  
18 parties. Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if the court  
19 determines that disclosure of confidential information has been  
20 made without a court order, the court may impose a sanction of  
21 up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000). A minor who has alleged  
22 harassment, as defined in subdivision (b), shall not be sanctioned  
23 for disclosure of the confidential information. If the court imposes  
24 a sanction, the court shall first determine whether the person has  
25 or is reasonably likely to have the ability to pay.

26 (B) Confidential information may be disclosed without a court  
27 order only in the following circumstances:

28 (i) By the minor's legal guardian who petitioned to keep the  
29 information confidential pursuant to this subdivision or the  
30 protected party in an order pursuant to this division, provided that  
31 the disclosure is necessary to prevent harassment or is in the  
32 minor's best interest. A legal guardian or a protected party who  
33 makes a disclosure under this clause is subject to the sanction in  
34 subparagraph (A) only if the disclosure was malicious.

35 (ii) By a person to whom confidential information is disclosed,  
36 provided that the disclosure is necessary to prevent harassment or  
37 is in the best interest of the minor, no more information than  
38 necessary is disclosed, and a delay would be caused by first  
39 obtaining a court order to authorize the disclosure of the  
40 information. A person who makes a disclosure pursuant to this

1 clause is subject to the sanction in subparagraph (A) if the person  
2 discloses the information in a manner that recklessly or maliciously  
3 disregards these requirements.

4 (4) (A) Confidential information shall be made available to  
5 both of the following:

6 (i) Law enforcement pursuant to subdivision (r), to the extent  
7 necessary and only for the purpose of enforcing the order.

8 (ii) The respondent to allow the respondent to comply with the  
9 order for confidentiality and to allow the respondent to comply  
10 with and respond to the protective order. A notice shall be provided  
11 to the respondent that identifies the specific information that has  
12 been made confidential and shall include a statement that disclosure  
13 is punishable by a monetary fine.

14 (B) At any time, the court on its own may authorize a disclosure  
15 of any portion of the confidential information to certain individuals  
16 or entities as necessary to prevent harassment, as defined under  
17 subdivision (b), including implementation of the protective order,  
18 or if it is in the best interest of the minor.

19 (C) The court may authorize a disclosure of any portion of the  
20 confidential information to any person that files a petition if  
21 necessary to prevent harassment, as defined under subdivision (b),  
22 or if it is in the best interest of the minor. The party who petitioned  
23 the court to keep the information confidential pursuant to this  
24 subdivision shall be served personally or by first-class mail with  
25 a copy of the petition and afforded an opportunity to object to the  
26 disclosure.

27 (w) This section does not apply to any action or proceeding  
28 covered by Title 1.6C (commencing with Section 1788) of Part 4  
29 of Division 3 of the Civil Code or by Division 10 (commencing  
30 with Section 6200) of the Family Code. This section does not  
31 preclude a petitioner from using other existing civil remedies.

32 (x) (1) The Judicial Council shall develop forms, instructions,  
33 and rules relating to matters governed by this section. The petition  
34 and response forms shall be simple and concise, and their use by  
35 parties in actions brought pursuant to this section is mandatory.

36 (2) A temporary restraining order or order after hearing relating  
37 to civil harassment issued by a court pursuant to this section shall  
38 be issued on forms adopted by the Judicial Council and that have  
39 been approved by the Department of Justice pursuant to subdivision  
40 (i) of Section 6380 of the Family Code. However, the fact that an

1 order issued by a court pursuant to this section was not issued on  
2 forms adopted by the Judicial Council and approved by the  
3 Department of Justice shall not, in and of itself, make the order  
4 unenforceable.

5 (y) There is no filing fee for a petition that alleges that a person  
6 has inflicted or threatened violence against the petitioner, stalked  
7 the petitioner, or acted or spoken in any other manner that has  
8 placed the petitioner in reasonable fear of violence, and that seeks  
9 a protective or restraining order restraining stalking, future  
10 violence, or threats of violence, in an action brought pursuant to  
11 this section. A fee shall not be paid for a subpoena filed in  
12 connection with a petition alleging these acts. A fee shall not be  
13 paid for filing a response to a petition alleging these acts.

14 (z) ~~(1)~~ Subject to paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section  
15 6103.2 of the Government Code, there shall not be a fee for the  
16 service of process by a sheriff or marshal of a protective or  
17 restraining order to be issued, ~~if either of the following conditions~~  
18 ~~apply: issued pursuant to subdivision (y).~~

19 ~~(A) The protective or restraining order issued pursuant to this~~  
20 ~~section is based upon stalking, as prohibited by Section 646.9 of~~  
21 ~~the Penal Code.~~

22 ~~(B) The protective or restraining order issued pursuant to this~~  
23 ~~section is based upon unlawful violence or a credible threat of~~  
24 ~~violence.~~

25 ~~(2) The Judicial Council shall prepare and develop forms for~~  
26 ~~persons who wish to avail themselves of the services described in~~  
27 ~~this subdivision.~~

28 ~~(aa) (1) If a protective or restraining order to be issued pursuant~~  
29 ~~to this section is based upon stalking, as prohibited by Section~~  
30 ~~646.9 of the Penal Code, unlawful violence, or a credible threat~~  
31 ~~of violence, then the petitioner may do both of the following at no~~  
32 ~~cost:~~

33 ~~(A) File the petition electronically.~~

34 ~~(B) Remotely appear at the hearing.~~

35 ~~(2) The Judicial Council shall prepare and develop forms for~~  
36 ~~persons who wish to avail themselves of the services described in~~  
37 ~~this subdivision.~~

38 *SEC. 2. Section 6307 of the Family Code is amended to read:*

39 6307. (a) (1) A court or court facility that receives petitions  
40 for domestic violence restraining orders under this part or domestic

1 violence temporary restraining orders under Part 4 (commencing  
2 with Section 240) of Division 2 shall permit those petitions and  
3 any filings related to those petitions to be submitted ~~electronically~~.  
4 *electronically at no charge to the petitioner.* The court or court  
5 facility shall, based on the time of receipt, act on these filings  
6 consistent with Section 246.

7 (2) The request, notice of the court date, copies of the request  
8 to serve on the respondent, and the temporary restraining order, if  
9 granted, shall be provided to the petitioner electronically, unless  
10 the petitioner notes, at the time of electronic filing, that these  
11 documents will be picked up from the court or court facility.

12 (b) (1) Information regarding electronic filing and access to  
13 the court's self-help center shall be prominently displayed on each  
14 court's homepage.

15 (2) Each self-help center shall maintain and make available  
16 information related to domestic violence restraining orders pursuant  
17 to this section.

18 (c) The Judicial Council may adopt or amend rules and forms  
19 to implement this section.

20 ~~(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2023.~~

21 *SEC. 3. Section 6308 of the Family Code is amended to read:*

22 6308. A party, support person as defined in Section 6303, or  
23 witness may appear remotely at the hearing on a petition for a  
24 domestic violence restraining order. The superior court of each  
25 county *shall not charge a fee for any of these persons to appear*  
26 *remotely at the hearing and* shall develop local rules and  
27 instructions for remote appearances permitted under this section,  
28 which shall be posted on its internet website.

29 ~~SEC. 2.~~

30 *SEC. 4.* Section 15657.03 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
31 is amended to read:

32 15657.03. (a) (1) (A) An elder or dependent adult who has  
33 suffered abuse, as defined in Section 15610.07, may seek protective  
34 orders as provided in this section.

35 (B) *A court or court facility that receives petitions for a*  
36 *protective order pursuant to this section shall permit those petitions*  
37 *and any filings related to those petitions to be submitted*  
38 *electronically at no charge to the petitioner. The court or court*  
39 *facility shall, based on the time of receipt of the petition, act on*  
40 *these filings consistent with Section 246 of the Family Code.*

1 *Electronic filings shall be subject to all relevant provisions of*  
2 *Section 6307 of the Family Code.*

3 (2) (A) A petition may be brought on behalf of an abused elder  
4 or dependent adult by a conservator or a trustee of the elder or  
5 dependent adult, an attorney-in-fact of an elder or dependent adult  
6 who acts within the authority of a power of attorney, a person  
7 appointed as a guardian ad litem for the elder or dependent adult,  
8 or other person legally authorized to seek the relief.

9 (B) (i) Subject to clause (ii), if the petition alleges abuse of an  
10 elder or dependent adult in the form of isolation, the term “other  
11 person legally authorized to seek the relief” as used in subparagraph  
12 (A) includes an interested party as defined in paragraph (3) of  
13 subdivision (b).

14 (ii) Clause (i) shall apply only for the purpose of seeking an  
15 order enjoining isolation under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (5)  
16 of subdivision (b).

17 (3) (A) A petition under this section may be brought on behalf  
18 of an elder or dependent adult by a county adult protective services  
19 agency in either of the following circumstances:

20 (i) If the elder or dependent adult has suffered abuse as defined  
21 in subdivision (b) and has an impaired ability to appreciate and  
22 understand the circumstances that place the elder or dependent at  
23 risk of harm.

24 (ii) If the elder or dependent adult has provided written  
25 authorization to a county adult protective services agency to act  
26 on that person’s behalf.

27 (B) In the case of a petition filed pursuant to clause (i) of  
28 subparagraph (A) by a county adult protective services agency, a  
29 referral shall be made to the public guardian consistent with Section  
30 2920 of the Probate Code prior to or concurrent with the filing of  
31 the petition, unless a petition for appointment of a conservator has  
32 already been filed with the probate court by the public guardian  
33 or another party.

34 (C) A county adult protective services agency shall be subject  
35 to any confidentiality restrictions that otherwise apply to its  
36 activities under law and shall disclose only those facts as necessary  
37 to establish reasonable cause for the filing of the petition, including,  
38 in the case of a petition filed pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph  
39 (A), to establish the agency’s belief that the elder or dependent  
40 adult has suffered abuse and has an impaired ability to appreciate

1 and understand the circumstances that place the elder or dependent  
2 adult at risk, and as may be requested by the court in determining  
3 whether to issue an order under this section.

4 (b) For purposes of this section:

5 (1) “Abuse” has the meaning set forth in Section 15610.07.

6 (2) “Conservator” means the legally appointed conservator of  
7 the person or estate of the petitioner, or both.

8 (3) “Interested party” means an individual with a personal,  
9 preexisting relationship with the elder or dependent adult. A  
10 preexisting relationship may be shown by a description of past  
11 involvement with the elder or dependent adult, time spent together,  
12 and any other proof that the individual spent time with the elder  
13 or dependent adult.

14 (4) “Petitioner” means the elder or dependent adult to be  
15 protected by the protective orders and, if the court grants the  
16 petition, the protected person.

17 (5) “Protective order” means an order that includes any of the  
18 following restraining orders, whether issued ex parte, after notice  
19 and hearing, or in a judgment:

20 (A) An order enjoining a party from abusing, intimidating,  
21 molesting, attacking, striking, stalking, threatening, sexually  
22 assaulting, battering, harassing, telephoning, including, but not  
23 limited to, making annoying telephone calls as described in Section  
24 653m of the Penal Code, destroying personal property, contacting,  
25 either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise, or coming within  
26 a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, the petitioner,  
27 and, in the discretion of the court, on a showing of good cause, of  
28 other named family or household members or a conservator, if  
29 any, of the petitioner. On a showing of good cause, in an order  
30 issued pursuant to this subparagraph in connection with an animal  
31 owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the petitioner, or residing  
32 in the residence or household of the petitioner, the court may do  
33 either or both of the following:

34 (i) Grant the petitioner exclusive care, possession, or control of  
35 the animal.

36 (ii) Order the respondent to stay away from the animal and  
37 refrain from taking, transferring, encumbering, concealing,  
38 molesting, attacking, striking, threatening, harming, or otherwise  
39 disposing of the animal.



1 (B) An order excluding a party from the petitioner's residence  
2 or dwelling, except that this order shall not be issued if legal or  
3 equitable title to, or lease of, the residence or dwelling is in the  
4 sole name of the party to be excluded, or is in the name of the party  
5 to be excluded and any other party besides the petitioner.

6 (C) An order enjoining a party from specified behavior that the  
7 court determines is necessary to effectuate orders described in  
8 subparagraph (A) or (B).

9 (D) (i) After notice and a hearing only, a finding that specific  
10 debts were incurred as the result of financial abuse of the elder or  
11 dependent adult by the respondent. For purposes of this  
12 subparagraph, the acts that may support this order include, but are  
13 not limited to, the crimes proscribed by Section 530.5 of the Penal  
14 Code.

15 (ii) The finding pursuant to clause (i) shall not entitle the  
16 petitioner to any remedies other than those actually set forth in  
17 this section. The finding pursuant to clause (i) shall not affect the  
18 priority of any lien or other security interest.

19 (E) (i) After notice and a hearing only, an order enjoining a  
20 party from abusing an elder or dependent adult by isolating them.  
21 An order may be issued under this subparagraph to restrain the  
22 respondent for the purpose of preventing a recurrence of isolation  
23 if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence, to the  
24 satisfaction of the court, that the following requirements are met:

25 (I) The respondent's past act or acts of isolation of the elder or  
26 dependent adult repeatedly prevented contact with the interested  
27 party.

28 (II) The elder or dependent adult expressly desires contact with  
29 the interested party. A court shall use all means at its disposal to  
30 determine whether the elder or dependent adult desires contact  
31 with the person and has the capacity to consent to that contact.

32 (III) The respondent's isolation of the elder or dependent adult  
33 from the interested party was not in response to an actual or  
34 threatened abuse of the elder or dependent adult by the interested  
35 party or the elder or dependent adult's desire not to have contact  
36 with the interested party.

37 (ii) The order may specify the actions to be enjoined, including  
38 enjoining the respondent from preventing the interested party from  
39 in-person or remote online visits with the elder or dependent adult,  
40 including telephone and online contact.

1 (iii) An order enjoining isolation under this section is not  
2 required for an elder or dependent adult to visit with anyone with  
3 whom the elder or dependent adult desires visitation.

4 (iv) An order enjoining isolation shall not be issued under this  
5 section if the elder or dependent adult resides in a long-term care  
6 facility, as defined in Section 9701, or a residential facility, as  
7 defined in Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code. In those  
8 cases, action may be taken under appropriate federal law.

9 (v) An order enjoining isolation shall not be issued under this  
10 section if the elder or dependent adult is a patient of a health facility  
11 as defined in subdivision (a), (b), or (f) of Section 1250 of the  
12 Health and Safety Code. In those cases, action may be taken under  
13 other appropriate state or federal law.

14 (6) “Respondent” means the person against whom the protective  
15 orders are sought and, if the petition is granted, the restrained or  
16 enjoined person.

17 (c) Except as provided in subdivision (b), an order may be issued  
18 under this section, with or without notice, to restrain any person  
19 for the purpose of preventing a recurrence of abuse, if a declaration  
20 shows, to the satisfaction of the court, reasonable proof of a past  
21 act or acts of abuse of the petitioning elder or dependent adult.

22 ~~(d) (1) By April 1, 2026, a court or court facility that receives~~  
23 ~~petitions for orders under this section shall permit those petitions~~  
24 ~~and any filings related to those petitions to be submitted~~  
25 ~~electronically during and after normal business hours. The~~  
26 ~~deadlines applicable to any action taken by the court with respect~~  
27 ~~to a petition filed directly with the court shall apply to any action~~  
28 ~~taken with respect to a petition submitted electronically.~~

29 ~~(2) The superior court of each county shall develop, and post~~  
30 ~~on its internet website, local rules and instructions for electronic~~  
31 ~~filing permitted under this subdivision.~~

32 ~~(3) The superior court of each county shall provide, and post~~  
33 ~~on its internet website, a telephone number for the public to call~~  
34 ~~to obtain information about electronic filing permitted under this~~  
35 ~~subdivision. The telephone number shall be staffed during regular~~  
36 ~~business hours, and court staff shall respond to all telephonic~~  
37 ~~inquiries within one business day.~~

38 (e)

39 (d) Upon filing a petition for protective orders under this section,  
40 the petitioner may obtain a temporary restraining order in

1 accordance with Section 527 of the Code of Civil Procedure, except  
2 to the extent this section provides a rule that is inconsistent. The  
3 temporary restraining order may include any of the protective  
4 orders described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b). However, the  
5 court may issue an ex parte order excluding a party from the  
6 petitioner's residence or dwelling only on a showing of all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) Facts sufficient for the court to ascertain that the party who  
9 will stay in the dwelling has a right under color of law to possession  
10 of the premises.

11 (2) That the party to be excluded has assaulted or threatens to  
12 assault the petitioner, other named family or household member  
13 of the petitioner, or a conservator of the petitioner.

14 (3) That physical or emotional harm would otherwise result to  
15 the petitioner, other named family or household member of the  
16 petitioner, or a conservator of the petitioner.

17 ~~(f)~~

18 (e) A request for the issuance of a temporary restraining order  
19 without notice under this section shall be granted or denied on the  
20 same day that the petition is submitted to the court, unless the  
21 petition is filed too late in the day to permit effective review, in  
22 which case the order shall be granted or denied on the next day of  
23 judicial business in sufficient time for the order to be filed that day  
24 with the clerk of the court.

25 ~~(g)~~

26 (f) Within 21 days, or, if good cause appears to the court, 25  
27 days, from the date that a request for a temporary restraining order  
28 is granted or denied, a hearing shall be held on the petition. If no  
29 request for temporary orders is made, the hearing shall be held  
30 within 21 days, or, if good cause appears to the court, 25 days,  
31 from the date that the petition is filed.

32 ~~(h)~~

33 (g) The respondent may file a response that explains or denies  
34 the alleged abuse.

35 ~~(i)~~

36 (h) The court may issue, upon notice and a hearing, any of the  
37 orders set forth in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b). The court may  
38 issue, after notice and hearing, an order excluding a person from  
39 a residence or dwelling if the court finds that physical or emotional  
40 harm would otherwise result to the petitioner, other named family

1 or household member of the petitioner, or conservator of the  
2 petitioner.

3 ~~(j)~~

4 (i) (1) In the discretion of the court, an order issued after notice  
5 and a hearing under this section may have a duration of not more  
6 than five years, subject to termination or modification by further  
7 order of the court either on written stipulation filed with the court  
8 or on the motion of a party. These orders may be renewed upon  
9 the request of a party, either for five years or permanently, without  
10 a showing of any further abuse since the issuance of the original  
11 order, subject to termination or modification by further order of  
12 the court either on written stipulation filed with the court or on the  
13 motion of a party. The request for renewal may be brought at any  
14 time within the three months before the expiration of the order.

15 (2) The failure to state the expiration date on the face of the  
16 form creates an order with a duration of three years from the date  
17 of issuance.

18 (3) If an action is filed for the purpose of terminating or  
19 modifying a protective order prior to the expiration date specified  
20 in the order by a party other than the protected party, the party  
21 who is protected by the order shall be given notice, pursuant to  
22 subdivision (b) of Section 1005 of the Code of Civil Procedure,  
23 of the proceeding by personal service or, if the protected party has  
24 satisfied the requirements of Chapter 3.1 (commencing with  
25 Section 6205) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code,  
26 by service on the Secretary of State. If the party who is protected  
27 by the order cannot be notified prior to the hearing for modification  
28 or termination of the protective order, the court shall deny the  
29 motion to modify or terminate the order without prejudice or  
30 continue the hearing until the party who is protected can be  
31 properly noticed and may, upon a showing of good cause, specify  
32 another method for service of process that is reasonably designed  
33 to afford actual notice to the protected party. The protected party  
34 may waive the right to notice if that party is physically present in  
35 court and does not challenge the sufficiency of the notice.

36 ~~(k)~~

37 (j) In a proceeding under this section, a support person may  
38 accompany a party in court and, if the party is not represented by  
39 an attorney, may sit with the party at the table that is generally  
40 reserved for the party and the party's attorney. The support person

1 is present to provide moral and emotional support for a person  
2 who alleges to be a victim of abuse. The support person is not  
3 present as a legal adviser and may not provide legal advice. The  
4 support person may assist the person who alleges to be a victim  
5 of abuse in feeling more confident that the alleged abuse victim  
6 will not be injured or threatened by the other party during the  
7 proceedings if the person who alleges to be a victim of abuse and  
8 the other party are required to be present in close proximity. This  
9 subdivision does not preclude the court from exercising its  
10 discretion to remove the support person from the courtroom if the  
11 court believes the support person is prompting, swaying, or  
12 influencing the party assisted by the support person.

13 ~~(h)~~

14 ~~(k) (1) Upon~~ *Except as provided in paragraph (2), upon* the  
15 filing of a petition for protective orders under this section, the  
16 respondent shall be personally served with a copy of the petition,  
17 notice of the hearing or order to show cause, temporary restraining  
18 order, if any, and any declarations in support of the petition. Service  
19 shall be made at least five days before the hearing. The court may,  
20 on motion of the petitioner or on its own motion, shorten the time  
21 for service on the respondent.

22 ~~(2) (A) If at the time of a hearing with respect to an order issued~~  
23 ~~pursuant to this section based on an ex parte temporary protective~~  
24 ~~order, the court determines that, after diligent effort, the petitioner~~  
25 ~~has been unable to accomplish personal service, and that there is~~  
26 ~~reason to believe that the restrained party is evading service, the~~  
27 ~~court may permit an alternative method of service designed to give~~  
28 ~~reasonable notice of the action to the respondent. Alternative~~  
29 ~~methods of service include, but are not limited to, both of the~~  
30 ~~following:~~

31 ~~(i) Service by publication pursuant to the standards set forth in~~  
32 ~~Section 415.50 of the Code of Civil Procedure.~~

33 ~~(ii) Service by first-class mail sent to the respondent at the most~~  
34 ~~current address for the respondent that is available to the court or~~  
35 ~~delivering a copy of the pleadings and orders at the respondent's~~  
36 ~~home or place of employment, pursuant to the standards set forth~~  
37 ~~in Sections 415.20 to 415.40, inclusive, of the Code of Civil~~  
38 ~~Procedure.~~

1 ~~(B) If the court permits an alternative method of service under~~  
2 ~~this paragraph, the court shall grant a continuance to allow for the~~  
3 ~~alternative service pursuant to subdivision (p):~~

4 *(2) If the court determines at the hearing that, after a diligent*  
5 *effort, the petitioner has been unable to accomplish personal*  
6 *service, and that there is reason to believe that the respondent is*  
7 *evading service or cannot be located, then the court may specify*  
8 *another method of service that is reasonably calculated to give*  
9 *actual notice to the respondent and may prescribe the manner in*  
10 *which proof of service shall be made.*

11 ~~(m)~~

12 *(l) A notice of hearing under this section shall notify the*  
13 *respondent that if the respondent does not attend the hearing, the*  
14 *court may make orders against the respondent that could last up*  
15 *to five years.*

16 ~~(n) (1) A party or witness may appear remotely for free at the~~  
17 ~~hearing on a petition for a protective order issued under this section.~~

18 ~~(2) The superior court of each county shall develop, and post~~  
19 ~~on its internet website, local rules and instructions for remote~~  
20 ~~appearances permitted under this subdivision.~~

21 ~~(3) The superior court of each county shall provide, and post~~  
22 ~~on its internet website, a telephone number for the public to call~~  
23 ~~to obtain assistance regarding remote appearances. The telephone~~  
24 ~~number shall be staffed 30 minutes before the start of the court~~  
25 ~~session at which the hearing will take place, and during the court~~  
26 ~~session.~~

27 ~~(o)~~

28 *(m) The respondent shall be entitled, as a matter of course, to*  
29 *one continuance, for a reasonable period, to respond to the petition.*

30 ~~(p)~~

31 *(n) (1) Either party may request a continuance of the hearing,*  
32 *which the court shall grant on a showing of good cause. The request*  
33 *may be made in writing before or at the hearing or orally at the*  
34 *hearing. The court may also grant a continuance on its own motion.*

35 *(2) If the court grants a continuance, any temporary restraining*  
36 *order that has been granted shall remain in effect until the end of*  
37 *the continued hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the court. In*  
38 *granting a continuance, the court may modify or terminate a*  
39 *temporary restraining order.*

40 ~~(q)~~

1     (o) (1) If a respondent, named in an order issued under this  
2 section after a hearing, has not been served personally with the  
3 order but has received actual notice of the existence and substance  
4 of the order through personal appearance in court to hear the terms  
5 of the order from the court, no additional proof of service is  
6 required for enforcement of the order.

7     (2) If the respondent named in a temporary restraining order is  
8 personally served with the order and notice of hearing with respect  
9 to a restraining order or protective order based on the temporary  
10 restraining order, but the respondent does not appear at the hearing,  
11 either personally or by an attorney, and the terms and conditions  
12 of the restraining order or protective order issued at the hearing  
13 are identical to the temporary restraining order, except for the  
14 duration of the order, then the restraining order or protective order  
15 issued at the hearing may be served on the respondent by first-class  
16 mail sent to the respondent at the most current address for the  
17 respondent that is available to the court.

18     (3) The Judicial Council form for temporary orders issued  
19 pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a statement in  
20 substantially the following form:

21     “If you have been personally served with a temporary restraining  
22 order and notice of hearing, but you do not appear at the hearing  
23 either in person or by a lawyer, and a restraining order that is the  
24 same as this temporary restraining order except for the expiration  
25 date is issued at the hearing, a copy of the order will be served on  
26 you by mail at the following address:

27     If that address is not correct or you wish to verify that the  
28 temporary restraining order was converted to a restraining order  
29 at the hearing without substantive change and to find out the  
30 duration of that order, contact the clerk of the court.”

31     (†)

32     (p) (1) Information on a protective order relating to elder or  
33 dependent adult abuse issued by a court pursuant to this section  
34 shall be transmitted to the Department of Justice in accordance  
35 with either paragraph (2) or (3).

36     (2) The court shall order the petitioner or the attorney for the  
37 petitioner to deliver a copy of an order issued under this section,  
38 or a reissuance, extension, modification, or termination of the  
39 order, and any subsequent proof of service, by the close of the  
40 business day on which the order, reissuance, extension,

1 modification, or termination was made, to each law enforcement  
2 agency having jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner, and  
3 to any additional law enforcement agencies within the court's  
4 discretion as are requested by the petitioner.

5 (3) Alternatively, the court or its designee shall transmit, within  
6 one business day, to law enforcement personnel all information  
7 required under subdivision (b) of Section 6380 of the Family Code  
8 regarding any order issued under this section, or a reissuance,  
9 extension, modification, or termination of the order, and any  
10 subsequent proof of service, by either one of the following  
11 methods:

12 (A) Transmitting a physical copy of the order or proof of service  
13 to a local law enforcement agency authorized by the Department  
14 of Justice to enter orders into the California Law Enforcement  
15 Telecommunications System (CLETS).

16 (B) With the approval of the Department of Justice, entering  
17 the order or proof of service into CLETS directly.

18 (4) Each appropriate law enforcement agency shall make  
19 available information as to the existence and current status of these  
20 orders to law enforcement officers responding to the scene of  
21 reported abuse.

22 (5) An order issued under this section shall, on request of the  
23 petitioner, be served on the respondent, whether or not the  
24 respondent has been taken into custody, by any law enforcement  
25 officer who is present at the scene of reported abuse involving the  
26 parties to the proceeding. The petitioner shall provide the officer  
27 with an endorsed copy of the order and a proof of service, which  
28 the officer shall complete and send to the issuing court.

29 (6) Upon receiving information at the scene of an incident of  
30 abuse that a protective order has been issued under this section,  
31 or that a person who has been taken into custody is the respondent  
32 to that order, if the protected person cannot produce an endorsed  
33 copy of the order, a law enforcement officer shall immediately  
34 attempt to verify the existence of the order.

35 (7) If the law enforcement officer determines that a protective  
36 order has been issued but not served, the officer shall immediately  
37 notify the respondent of the terms of the order and where a written  
38 copy of the order can be obtained, and the officer shall at that time  
39 also enforce the order. The law enforcement officer's oral notice  
40 of the terms of the order shall constitute service of the order and



1 is sufficient notice for the purposes of this section and for the  
2 purposes of Section 273.6 of the Penal Code.

3 (8) This subdivision does not apply, and the protective order  
4 shall not be subject to the requirements of Section 6380 of the  
5 Family Code, if the protective order issued pursuant to this section  
6 was made solely on the basis of isolation unaccompanied by force,  
7 threat, harassment, intimidation, or any other form of abuse.

8 ~~(s)~~

9 (q) This section does not preclude either party from  
10 representation by private counsel or from appearing on the party's  
11 own behalf.

12 ~~(t)~~

13 (r) There shall not be a filing fee for a petition, response, or  
14 paper seeking the reissuance, modification, or enforcement of a  
15 protective order filed in a proceeding brought pursuant to this  
16 section.

17 ~~(u)~~

18 (s) Pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section  
19 6103.2 of the Government Code, a petitioner shall not be required  
20 to pay a fee for law enforcement to serve an order issued under  
21 this section.

22 ~~(v)~~

23 (t) The prevailing party in an action brought under this section  
24 may be awarded court costs and attorney's fees, if any.

25 ~~(w)~~

26 (u) (1) A person subject to a protective order under this section  
27 shall not own, possess, purchase, receive, or attempt to receive a  
28 firearm or ammunition while the protective order is in effect.

29 (2) The court shall order a person subject to a protective order  
30 issued under this section to relinquish any firearms that the person  
31 owns or possesses pursuant to Section 527.9 of the Code of Civil  
32 Procedure.

33 (3) Every person who owns, possesses, purchases, or receives,  
34 or attempts to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while  
35 subject to a protective order issued under this section is punishable  
36 pursuant to Section 29825 of the Penal Code.

37 (4) This subdivision does not apply in a case in which a  
38 protective order issued under this section was made solely on the  
39 basis of financial abuse or isolation unaccompanied by force, threat,  
40 harassment, intimidation, or any other form of abuse.

1     ~~(x)~~

2     (v) In a proceeding brought under paragraph (3) of subdivision  
3 (a), all of the following apply:

4     (1) Upon the filing of a petition for a protective order, the elder  
5 or dependent adult on whose behalf the petition has been filed  
6 shall receive a copy of the petition, a notice of the hearing, and  
7 any declarations submitted in support of the petition. The elder or  
8 dependent adult shall receive this information at least five days  
9 before the hearing. The court may, on motion of the petitioner or  
10 on its own motion, shorten the time for provision of this  
11 information to the elder or dependent adult.

12     (2) The adult protective services agency shall make reasonable  
13 efforts to assist the elder or dependent adult to attend the hearing  
14 *in person or by remote means* and provide testimony to the court,  
15 if that person wishes to do so. If the elder or dependent adult does  
16 not attend the hearing, the agency shall provide information to the  
17 court at the hearing regarding the reasons why the elder or  
18 dependent adult is not in attendance.

19     (3) Upon the filing of a petition for a protective order and upon  
20 issuance of an order granting the petition, the county adult  
21 protective services agency shall take all reasonable steps to provide  
22 for the safety of the elder or dependent adult, pursuant to Chapter  
23 13 (commencing with Section 15750), which may include, but are  
24 not limited to, facilitating the location of alternative  
25 accommodations for the elder or dependent adult, if needed.

26     (4) *A party, representative of the county adult protective services*  
27 *agency, or witness may appear remotely at the hearing on a*  
28 *petition for a protective order. The superior court of each county*  
29 *shall not charge a fee for any of these persons to appear remotely*  
30 *at the hearing and shall develop local rules and instructions for*  
31 *remote appearances permitted under this section, which shall be*  
32 *posted on its internet website.*

33     ~~(y)~~

34     (w) Willful disobedience of a temporary restraining order or  
35 restraining order after hearing granted under this section is  
36 punishable pursuant to Section 273.6 of the Penal Code.

37     ~~(z)~~

38     (x) This section does not apply to any action or proceeding  
39 governed by Title 1.6C (commencing with Section 1788) of Part  
40 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code, Chapter 3 (commencing with

1 Section 525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure,  
2 or Division 10 (commencing with Section 6200) of the Family  
3 Code. This section does not preclude a petitioner's right to use  
4 other existing civil remedies.

5 ~~(aa)~~

6 (y) (1) The Judicial Council shall develop forms, instructions,  
7 and rules relating to matters governed by this section. The petition  
8 and response forms shall be simple and concise, and shall be used  
9 by parties in actions brought pursuant to this section.

10 (2) On or before February 1, 2023, the Judicial Council shall  
11 revise or promulgate forms as necessary to implement the changes  
12 made by the act that added this paragraph.

13 ~~(ab)~~

14 (z) When issuing a protective order pursuant to this section for  
15 abuse involving acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of  
16 subdivision (a) of Section 15610.07, after notice and a hearing,  
17 the court may, if appropriate, also issue an order requiring the  
18 restrained party to participate in mandatory clinical counseling or  
19 anger management courses provided by a counselor, psychologist,  
20 psychiatrist, therapist, clinical social worker, or other mental or  
21 behavioral health professional licensed in the state to provide those  
22 services.

23 ~~(ac) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2023.~~

24 (aa) (1) *Information regarding electronic filing and access to*  
25 *the superior court's self-help center shall be prominently displayed*  
26 *on each superior court's home page.*

27 (2) *Each self-help center shall maintain and make available*  
28 *information related to elder abuse restraining orders pursuant to*  
29 *this section.*

30 (ab) *The Judicial Council may adopt or amend rules and forms*  
31 *to implement this section.*