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News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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Date of Release: December 20, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AND LAKE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE PREPARE FOR ELECTRONIC FILING OF ORDERS OF PROTECTION

As of January 1, 2018, the Illinois Supreme Court requires electronic filing (e-filing) of Court documents for civil cases in Illinois Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts. The Court's statewide e-filing initiative will provide a streamlined process for filing documents, conserve environmental resources, save time, and generate long-term financial savings. In accordance with the State's initiative, the 19th Judicial Circuit and the Lake County Circuit Clerk's Office are pleased to announce the release of the online Order of Protection system (OOP) in Lake County. The OOP system will help filers with the arduous task of filling out the eleven-page Petition for Order of Protection, previously done by hand.

Orders of Protection are a civil court order that provide protection for victims of domestic abuse and other incidents. During the past 3 years, the Circuit Clerk's Office has filed, on average, 2,400 Orders of Protection annually. A person can obtain an Order of Protection on an emergency basis when there is a likelihood of harm or injury by the abuser. Typically, the Emergency Order of Protection is sought within 72-hours of a domestic violence incident. Order of Protection filings will need to be completed electronically: <https://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org/OOP/> after January 1st. If assistance is needed with filing the petition online, multiple resources are listed on the website, and available to contact for help.

Within 72-hours of the electronic filing, the petitioner must appear in the 19th Judicial Circuit for a hearing. The Order of Protection Department is located on the 2nd Floor at Room D-100, Lake County Courthouse & Administration Building, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois. Should the petitioner not come to the Court within the 72-hour time frame, the submission will be removed and discarded from the system without notice.

After January 1st, once the paperwork is filed through the OOP system, attorneys and self-represented litigants will then need to submit the form electronically through a certified Electronic Filing Service Provider (EFSP). A list of certified EFSPs, as well additional information on how to e-File, is available at <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/attorneys-filers.htm>. Assistance for self-represented litigants is available in D-100, located on the 2nd Floor of the Lake County Courthouse. For further information, visit www.lakecountycircuitclerk.org.

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