



FAYETTE COUNTY 2023

PROTECTIVE ORDER

REPORT



domestic & sexual violence
Prevention Coalition

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ABOUT DSVPC

As established in Chapter 2, Article XX of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition (DSVPC) is Lexington's coordinated community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Section 2-250 of the Code states DSVPC's objectives as:

- Develop and facilitate an effective community wide system of prevention and intervention that is responsive to the needs of victims of interpersonal violence and those they care about.
- Facilitate coordination and communication of best practices among community and systems-based agencies.
- Monitor, evaluate, and promote the quality and effectiveness of services and protections in the community.
- Promote a clear understanding of interpersonal violence, current laws, and resources available in the community and the impact on the community.
- Serve as a network for information and resource sharing for interpersonal violence issues.

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Stephanie Theakston coordinated and authored the report. Data management was conducted by Margaret Ballard and Alex Smith.

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INTRODUCTION

Civil protective orders are one of two primary legal options for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Protective orders are court orders limiting the actions of a person for a fixed period of time to prevent abuse or threats of harm against a person requesting the order. While criminal charges are meant to punish someone for past behavior, protective orders are intended to prevent future acts of abuse. As a civil process, protective orders are designed to provide a speedy, low-barrier, legal remedy to violence.

With a focus on survivor safety, judges making decisions about protective orders are empowered through state and federal statutes to provide tailored forms of relief to petitioning survivors, including no third-party contact, temporary custody of children, child support, removal of firearms, protection for pets, and other measures that increase safety for survivors and their families.

Protective orders are effective in stopping violence for half of survivors who receive them; for those who experience violations of the order, frequency and severity of abuse is significantly reduced for many. (Logan et al., 2009; McFarlane et al., 2004). The number of emergency room visits, police-involved incidents (Kothari et al., 2012), and intimate partner homicides (Roskam et al., 2023) is reduced for survivors with protective orders. From a survivor perspective, protective orders reduce fear of future harm, distress, and financial burden (Logan et al., 2009).

Given the persistent and potentially fatal nature of domestic violence, it is in the public interest to examine who in our community accesses protective orders, the extent statutorily available relief is requested and granted, and whether the process for obtaining an order is responsive to survivors' needs.

Data for this report was collected from:

- Protective order petitions filed in Fayette County between January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.
- Accompanying protection order information sheets voluntarily filled out by Petitioners.
- Emergency or temporary protective orders issued (EPOs and TIPOs).
- Court docket sheets.
- Protective orders issued (DVOs and IPOs).

DATA USAGE

For this report, cases were separated into one of five categories based on the relationship between the Petitioner and Respondent as outlined in Kentucky protective order statutes: Intimate Partner Violence, Family Violence, Sexual Assault, Non-Domestic Violence, or Unclear. The following is a list of how relationships fall into each category.

Intimate Partner Violence: Petitioner and Respondent were married, previously married, have a child in common, currently living together, previously lived together as an intimate couple, or were currently or previously in a dating relationship.

Family Violence: Respondent was the Petitioner's parent, child, stepparent, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, or adult sibling.

Sexual Assault: Petitioner checked only the box on the petition stating "Respondent is alleged to have committed sexual assault." Cases were placed in this category regardless of whether the petition narrative indicated some other qualifying relationship between Petitioner and Respondent.

Non-Domestic Violence: Relationship between Petitioner and Respondent did not qualify as

intimate partner violence, family violence, or sexual violence.

Unclear: It was not clear from the petition whether the relationship between Petitioner and Respondent was intimate.

Three data tables are provided. The first table contains information for cases categorized as “Intimate Partner Violence” and “Sexual Violence.” The second table contains data for all protective order petitions filed in Fayette County in 2023. The final table contains only information for cases categorized as “Non-Domestic Violence.”

MISSING DATA

Several data points collected in this report were gathered from an Information Sheet accompanying petitions filled out by Petitioners. In October 2023, Fayette Family Court judges discontinued access to the information sheet due to absence of Petitioner consent. Currently, there is no mechanism for petitioners to grant consent. As a result, some data was not collected for all cases. Data points affected by this are indicated with ★.

To collect information from as many Petitioners’ experiences as possible, data was recorded even after access to the Information Sheet was denied if the petition narrative contained the information. There are also several cases for which hearing outcomes were not made available.

DATA LIMITATIONS

It is important to note this data does not account for all domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking in Fayette County. Fewer than half of domestic violence cases and only one-fifth of sexual violence cases are reported to the police (U.S. Department of Justice, 2023) and **only a small portion of survivors (less than 20%) seek a**

protective order (Jordan, 2004; Messing, 2021).

Those seeking protective orders often do so only after experiencing severe levels of victimization including threats of harm or death, stalking, assaults on children, strangulation, and other physical violence (Stoever, 2014).

While this data captures numerical counts of how many Petitioners have experienced different types of violence, it does not account for the frequency, severity, or duration of abuse. Nor does it account for coercive control or the devastating, cumulative harm experienced by survivors due to the unremitting, daily impact abuse causes on them and their loved ones (Stark, 2007).

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

Data in this report reflects the result of multiple agencies working together during one part of the protective order process. Creating and maintaining a whole, multi-part process responsive to the needs of survivors requires the continuous collaboration of judges, clerks, law enforcement, advocates, attorneys, and others.

Numerous changes and improvements in this process have been made over the last 20 years, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of professionals and survivors in Fayette County. These collaborative efforts have resulted in establishing safe supervised visitation services, improved language access, electronic petitions, advocates in courtrooms, compliance reviews, firearm confiscation, handbooks and tools for survivors, and other mechanisms to enhance safety.

This report is in no way meant to devalue those efforts. Rather, it provides suggestions to optimize safety and support for survivors in our community.

2023 FAYETTE COUNTY
INTIMATE PARTNER & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
 PROTECTIVE ORDERS

4

people filed for protection every day (1,547 yr)



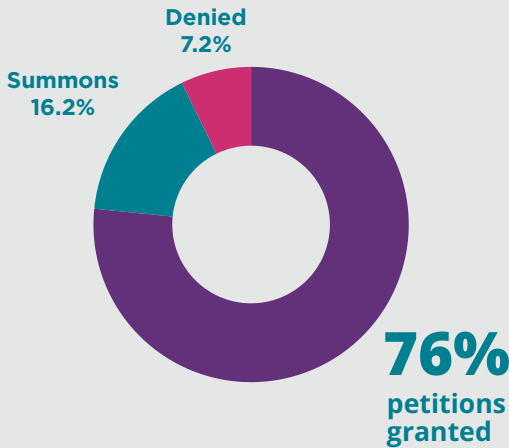
23.4%
Male
Petitioners

76.4%
Female
Petitioners

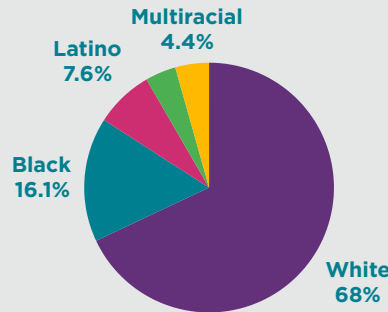


11%

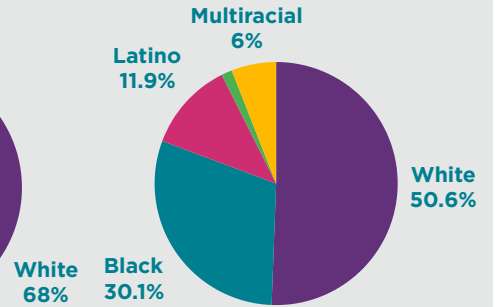
of Petitioners requested language assistance



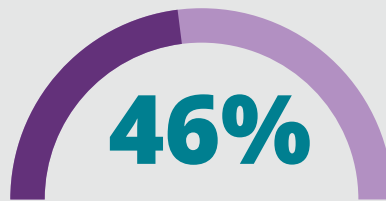
FAYETTE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS



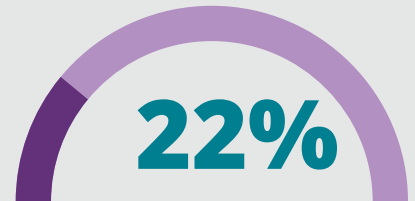
PETITIONER DEMOGRAPHICS



81%
of Petitioners report stalking

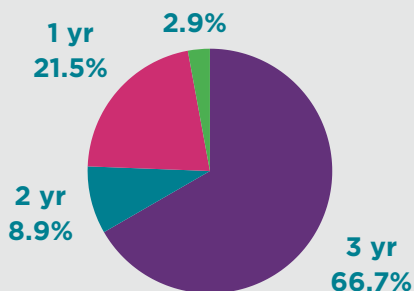


46%
of Petitioners report strangulation



22%
of Petitioners report sexual violence

LENGTH OF PROTECTIVE ORDER GRANTED



962
CHILDREN PROTECTED



217
PETS PROTECTED

DATA DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Obtaining a protective order is a complex, multi-step legal process survivors are expected to navigate during times of crisis, trauma, and increased risk of harm. Several aspects of this process work well and numerous changes and improvements have been made through the last 20 years. **This report is in no way meant to discount those efforts, but to provide additional ways of enhancing safety and supporting survivors in our community.** The following are recommendations regarding how different types of cases move through the court system, the length of time for a final hearing, the importance of gathering information regarding high risk factors, and child support.

TYPES OF CASES

According to the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, the purpose of Family Court is to “give cases involving families and children the highest priority [so] these cases do not have to compete with criminal and other civil cases for judicial time.”

In 2023, 25.46% of all 2,443 protective order petitions filed in Fayette County were not related to domestic, family, dating, or sexual violence. In these 622 cases, Petitioners often filed as victims of stalking and were seeking protection from neighbors, extended family members, roommates, general acquaintances, or some other form of non-intimate relationship. Nearly 40% of these petitions (248 cases) were denied because case-specific circumstances did not meet existing statutes that define stalking, leaving many people vulnerable to further harassment.

Around 60% of these cases (372 cases) were granted a hearing and placed on the domestic violence docket to be heard in front of a Family Court judge. While these Petitioners qualified to

petition for a Temporary Interpersonal Protective Order (TIPO) under KRS 456.030, they did not have a relationship with the Respondent that otherwise qualifies them for Family Court.

Fewer than 20% of hearings for these cases resulted in an Interpersonal Protective Order. Others went through the full hearing process so the judge could gather information not provided in the petition, only to be told the case did not qualify for an order, often because of an insufficient relationship with the Respondent or because the situation did not meet existing statute. Waiting until the end of the process to determine whether a protective order is an appropriate remedy to an individual's situation is not an efficient or respectful use of the Petitioner's or the Court's time.

Recommendation 1: Judges, advocates, prosecutors, service providers, court clerks, and law enforcement work in unison to develop a Fayette County intake process that more efficiently directs people to appropriate avenues of formal intervention.

Fayette Family Court judges have expressed desire for an intake process that would provide guidance at the petition phase of the protective order process. The suggested process would involve in-person assistance for the Petitioner to determine the best course of action for their circumstance. If additional funding cannot be provided, staffing the intake process would require cooperation and pooled resources from multiple agencies. Such an arrangement is allowed under KRS 456.070.

An alternative solution could include developing an electronic or paper screener to better inform Petitioners about qualifying relationships before they complete the protective order petition.

Recommendation 2: Family Court judges, District Court judges, court clerks, prosecutors, advocates, and service providers discuss the feasibility of routing cases failing to classify as domestic violence (intimate partner and qualified family relationships) or as sexual assault cases through District Court.

Family Court and District Court have concurrent jurisdiction of TIPOs. How they are processed is determined by local court rules. If these cases were to be heard in District Court, as allowed by KRS 403.725, more time would be available on the domestic violence docket to hear domestic violence related cases and address the immediate needs of survivors.

Recommendation 3: Family Court judges, District Court judges, court clerks, prosecutors, advocates, and service providers explore the possibility and impact of passing legislation for civil anti-harassment orders in Kentucky.

Current Kentucky law provides few relief options for people experiencing harm from someone who is not an intimate partner or immediate family member. Many states provide an option for civil anti-harassment orders for harmful situations not involving domestic or dating violence. The creation of an option for Kentucky could establish a new alternative to enhance overall community safety.

NOTE: *Unless otherwise noted, the following refers to data for cases categorized as “Intimate Partner Violence” and “Sexual Violence.”*

LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN PETITION AND HEARING

The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study states the average length of time between filing for a protective order and attending the court hearing in Kentucky in 2009 was 17 days with the range

varying between 1-147 days (Logan et al., 2009). **In 2023, the average length of time between filing for a protective order and attending the court hearing was 49 days with the range varying between 0-330 days, a significant increase to nearly three times in length.** This is particularly pertinent in cases involving children (47%) and for Petitioners receiving a summons for a hearing without receiving a temporary protective order (16%).

The increase of time between petition and hearing creates a cascade of additional issues for survivors. Historically, domestic violence hearings occurred during the domestic violence docket when Victim Advocates are present to support and assist survivors. When hearings are delayed, they are often scheduled at a date and time outside the domestic violence docket, when Victim Advocates are not routinely available. Victim Advocates are an integral part in helping survivors navigate and remain engaged in the judicial system; not having access to an advocate could change the outcome of a case (De La Rue et al., 2023; St. Paul DAIP). The Kentucky Court of Justice’s 2020 statewide needs assessment recommends survivors have access to advocates and support systems throughout the court process.

The Kentucky Court of Justice’s 2020 statewide needs assessment found delayed hearings create frustration and confusion and exacerbate already significant financial burdens for survivors who must take time off work and arrange transportation and childcare to attend court. Additionally, delays allow for greater opportunity to intimidate survivors into abandoning court action or for other legal abuse to occur (a well-documented tactic among abusive partners) (Douglas, 2018; Gutowski, 2023) and are inconsistent with the intent of the law, which is to

“allow victims to obtain effective, short-term protection against further wrongful conduct in order that their lives may be as secure and as uninterrupted as possible” (KRS 403.715).

Specific reasons for increased time between petition and hearing date were not documented in this data but can occur for many reasons, including challenges in serving Respondents with notice of the hearing date, the competing demands for time on judges’ schedules, availability of attorneys involved, and judicial discretion. There is perception among attorneys, advocates, and service providers that the length of hearings, which reportedly can last several hours, is also contributing to this delay.

It should not be surprising that some survivors are re-evaluating the true costs of seeking safety through the judicial process.

Moving cases expeditiously through the process reduces opportunities for further abuse and sends a message to Respondents and Petitioners that intimate partner violence is taken seriously and the system is responsive to violence against survivors.

Recommendation 4: DSVPC should convene a committee of judges, advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, court clerks, and service providers to determine the most common reasons for an excessive length of time between petition and hearing and research best practices and develop procedures to lessen time between petition and hearing.

HIGH-RISK FACTORS

Decades of research on domestic, dating, and sexual violence and intimate partner stalking have revealed aspects of abuse consistently identified as high-risk factors for escalated violence and

homicide. Several of these factors feature prominently in experiences of Petitioners in Fayette County.

As previously stated, these incidents are frequently under-reported. Therefore, these numbers do not represent all Petitioners who have experienced these forms of violence. Additionally, the absence of these factors is not evidence that risk of increased violence or lethality does not exist.

Sexual Violence: Intimate partner sexual violence is used to intimidate, control, and demean, and is often described by survivors of intimate partner violence as the most traumatic and humiliating aspect of abuse (Center for Court Innovation). Victims who are both physically and sexually abused by their intimate partner are more likely to be killed (Campbell et al., 2003). **21.81% of Petitioners filing for a protective order against an intimate partner or sexual assaulter in Fayette County indicated they had also experienced sexual violence by the Respondent.**

Non-Fatal Strangulation: Non-fatal strangulation is one of the most extreme tactics of coercive control, used to demonstrate control an abusive partner has over a victim’s ability to breathe. If a survivor has been strangled even once by an intimate partner, the risk that partner will later kill them increases by 750% (Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, 2022). Many survivors indicate they have been strangled multiple times by intimate partners (Glass, 2008). In Fayette County, **at least 46% of Petitioners indicate they have been strangled by the Respondent.**

Stalking: The presence of stalking indicates a high risk of protective order violations and is a risk factor for severe or lethal violence (Logan, et al. 2009). 76% of women murdered by an intimate

partner were stalked first (NCADV, 2017). **In Fayette County, 81.47% of Petitioners indicate they have been stalked by the Respondent.**

Firearms: Firearms are used to control and terrorize survivors of intimate partner violence, even in the absence of previous physical violence (Kafka et al., 2021). **The presence of a firearm increases the risk of intimate partner homicide by 500-1,000%** (Campbell, 2003; Kafka et al. 2021; Spencer, 2020). The combination of firearms and intimate partner violence not only poses a greater risk of fatality for victims, but also the general public. Homicide victims also include children and other family members, friends, neighbors, law enforcement, bystanders, and others (Kafka et al., 2023; Kafka et al. 2021; Smith, 2014). **Between 2014-2019, 59% of mass shootings in the US were domestic violence-related** (Geller, 2021; Gold, 2020). **At least 32% of Petitioners report the Respondent has access to a firearm.** Petitioners reported the use of a firearm more than any other weapon used against them.

If the overall goal of protective orders is to prevent re-abuse and decrease levels of violence, there must be a thorough understanding of the history and severity of case-specific violence and the risk this creates for future violence against survivors. **The most consistently identified risk factor for intimate partner lethality and risk of re-assault is the previous history of violence by the abusive partner against the survivor** (Campbell et al. 2003, 2007; Glass et al. 2008). Yet, "No imminent threat" was the most frequently given reason for not issuing an emergency protective order (EPO or TIPO). Domestic violence is patterned behavior. If violence has already occurred, there is a high likelihood it will occur again, or is currently occurring.

Compounding this issue is that current protective order petition forms are not designed to assist survivors in sharing this information with judges. If the Petitioner does not write the full history of abuse in the petition narrative, the judge remains unaware of some of the most torturous forms of violence that have occurred and is left to make decisions about safety without this context. There have been attempts at prompting survivors to share more about their experience. In the end, the current process relies on the ability of a traumatized person to narrate the worst experiences of their lives.

Research shows survivors are better equipped to articulate a broader context of violence when assisted by a Victim Advocate (BWCCADV, 2011; Elwart, 2006) but **57.66% of petitions were filed outside of business hours**, when advocates are not readily available.

Recommendation 5: Family Court judges establish and share with stakeholders what criteria, protocol, or assessment tool is being used to determine Petitioners are not in need of immediate protection due to "no imminent threat." This would better standardize responses across judges and better educate people on what will or will not be addressed through the petition process.

Recommendation 6: As has been done in the past, current judges, court personnel, guardian ad litem, advocates, Friend of the Court, and service providers commit to joint, annual, intensive training on domestic violence dynamics, abuser behavior, and newest trends in practice and research.

Recommendation 7: Judges, advocates, and service providers work together to develop a simple checklist to provide to Petitioners of what to include in a protective order narrative.

CHILD SUPPORT

Financial abuse occurs in 94-99% of relationships with an abusive partner and is often cited by survivors as among the top reasons victims return to relationships with abusive partners or stay with an abusive partner longer, especially when children are involved (Postmus et al., 2011). Without child support, survivors and children experience adverse outcomes, such as housing instability and poverty (Baker et al. 2010; Goodman et al., 2009). For survivors with income below the poverty level, child support represents nearly half of their income and can lift families out of poverty (Sorensen, 2010). Therefore, child support is one of the most important forms of relief judges can provide Petitioners. Kentucky law permits judges to order Respondents to pay child support when a Domestic Violence Order is entered (KRS 403.740).

The 414 cases resulting in a long-term protective order (DVO or IPO) involved 154 children that are biologically related to the Respondent. Child support was requested in 42 of those cases. Family Court judges ordered child support in 13 cases, meaning **approximately 31% of requests for child support were granted.**

It should be noted families involved with Family Court may have multiple cases in front of the same judge (i.e., divorce and custody cases) and child support could be ordered at a later date. Yet, an unnecessary and easily prevented vulnerability is created when courts do not exercise their full powers to protect victims and hold abusive partners accountable. Given the emergency and temporary nature of protective orders (up to 3 years), judges could order child support at the time of the Domestic Violence Order and write it into a more permanent order at a future date. This would

help Respondents better meet financial obligations to their children and allow for more immediate relief for adult and child survivors in a time of crisis.

Recommendation 8: Judges make child support orders a priority when issuing Domestic Violence Orders. The flexibility and temporary nature of protective orders provides opportunity for Respondents to request modification to the order if circumstances regarding child support change.

CONCLUSION

There are significant challenges in collecting data and making the most of its interpretation. Data is key to informed action. **Fayette County must expand efforts for clear, accurate, clean, and timely data to create greater transparency around collective community efforts to end domestic and sexual violence.** The public must have access to easily understand how law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges in district and circuit courts impact public safety concerning domestic and sexual violence.

Residents of Fayette County can also look for ways to support survivors beyond the judicial system. **It's Time**, a city-wide initiative to prevent domestic and sexual violence, provides guidance on how everyone can become a part of conversations and solutions. For more information on how to get involved through the roles you are already playing in the community, visit ItsTimeLexington.org.

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Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Protective Orders

Fayette County 2023

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Petitions & Outcomes	Number	Percentage
EPOs/TIPOs Granted	1,185	76.60%
Summons	250	16.16%
Denied	112	7.24%
Total	1,547	

	Number	Percentage
Cross Petitions	139	8.99%

Judicial Reason Given for Summons	Number	Percentage
No imminent threat	180	72.00%
Fails to state an act or threat of domestic violence & abuse	39	15.60%
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	19	7.60%
Unknown	4	1.60%
Insufficient relationship	1	0.40%
Doesn't meet statute	1	0.40%
Petition Unclear	1	0.40%
Other (e.g. appears to be custody case, pending court date already)	5	2.00%
Total	250	

Judicial Reason Given for Denial	Number	Percentage
Fails to state an act or threat of domestic violence & abuse	74	66.07%
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	22	19.64%
Doesn't meet statute	3	2.68%
No imminent threat	3	2.68%
Other (e.g. issues already addressed, petition illegible)	10	8.93%
Total	112	

Relationship Type Between Petitioner and Respondent	Number	Percentage
Intimate Partner Violence	1,504	97.22%
Sexual Assault	43	2.78%
Total	1,547	

Relationship to Petitioner	Number	Percentage
Married (current or former)	408	26.37%
Child in Common	405	26.18%
Dating	360	23.27%
Live(d) Together	329	21.27%
Sexual Assaulter	45	2.91%
Total	1,547	

Day of Week Petition Filed	Number	Percentage	Percentage filed outside of business hours*
Monday	268	17.32%	46.27%
Tuesday	260	16.81%	46.54%
Wednesday	239	15.45%	48.95%
Thursday	216	13.96%	37.96%
Friday	222	14.35%	47.75%
Saturday	171	11.05%	100%
Sunday	171	11.05%	100%
Total	1,547		

*Outside of business hours is considered any time Monday—Friday 4:30-pm—8:00am, weekends, and holidays

Petitioner	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	1,182	76.41%	
Male	362	23.40%	
Transgender	2	0.13%	
Unclear	1	0.06%	
Total	1,547		
★Race			
White	708	45.77%	50.97%
Black	421	27.21%	30.31%
Latino/Hispanic	167	10.80%	12.02%
Multiracial	50	3.23%	3.60%
Asian	20	1.29%	1.44%
American Indian	9	0.58%	0.65%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	7	0.45%	0.50%
Pacific Islander	3	0.19%	0.22%
Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%
Other	4	0.26%	0.29%
Unknown	158	10.21%	
Total	1,547		
★Age			
Age Range	5-79		
Avg Age	43.53		
Median Age	34		

Respondent	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	369	23.85%	
Male	1,178	76.15%	
Transgender	0	0%	
Other	0	0%	
Total	1,547		
Race			
White	754	48.74%	49.12%
Black	576	37.23%	37.52%
Latino/Hispanic	143	9.24%	9.32%
Multiracial	32	2.07%	2.08%
Asian	13	0.84%	0.85%
American Indian	0	0%	0%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	8	0.52%	0.52%
Pacific Islander	6	0.39%	0.39%
Alaskan Native	2	0.13%	0.13%
Other	1	0.06%	0.06%
Unknown	12	0.78%	
Total	1,547		
Age			
Age Range	14-81		
Avg Age	44.72		
Median Age	35		

LGBTQ Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent	Number	Percentage
Yes	73	4.72%

★Language Assistance Requested*	Number
Spanish	112
Arabic	9
Swahili	5
French	3
Kinyarwanda	3
American Sign Language	3
Chatino	2
Indonesian	2
Nepali	2
Vietnamese	1
Hattian Creole	1
Hindi	1
Punjabi	1
Russian	1
Hearing Impaired	13
Total	159

*Out of 1,404 cases

★Petitioner Council District	Number
1	234
2	111
3	60
4	122
5	108
6	114
7	137
8	145
9	61
10	54
11	171
12	59
Out of County	102
Unhoused/Homeless	33
No Address Provided	36
Total	1,547

★Strangulation Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	647	41.82%	46.08%
No	714	46.15%	50.85%
Blank	43	2.78%	3.06%
No Paperwork	143	9.24%	
Total	1,547		

★Sexual Violence Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	306	19.78%	21.81%
No	1,035	66.90%	73.77%
Blank	62	4.01%	4.42%
No Paperwork	144	9.31%	
Total	1,547		

★Stalking Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	1,152	74.47%	81.47%
No	225	14.54%	15.91%
Blank	37	2.39%	2.62%
No Paperwork	133	8.60%	
Total	1,547		

★Respondent Possesses Firearm	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	456	29.48%	32.55%
No	629	40.66%	44.90%
Petitioner Doesn't Know	66	4.27%	4.71%
Blank	250	16.16%	17.84%
No Paperwork	146	9.44%	
Total	1,547		

Note: If the petition narrative described or mentioned strangulation, sexual violence, stalking, or possession of a firearm, it was included as a “yes” answer. For this reason, the numbers for “no paperwork” vary.

Weapon Used in Petition Narrative	Number	Percentage of Cases With Weapon Use (n=214)
Firearm	96	44.86%
Knife	41	19.16%
Vehicle	18	8.41%
Furniture	10	4.67%
Glass Bottle	8	3.74%
Phone	7	3.27%
Box Cutter	6	2.80%
Kitchen Pot / Pan	4	1.87%
Brick / Rock	3	1.40%
Cane	2	0.93%
Dishes	2	0.93%
Glass	2	0.93%
Hammer	2	0.93%
Machete	2	0.93%
Makeup Tool / Brush	2	0.93%
Metal Pole	2	0.93%
Power Cord	2	0.93%
Scissors	2	0.93%
Screwdriver	2	0.93%
Baseball Bat	1	0.47%
Belt	1	0.47%
Hot beverage	1	0.47%
Kettle bell	1	0.47%
Mace / Pepper Spray	1	0.47%
Metal Object	1	0.47%
Pool stick	1	0.47%
Power Tool	1	0.47%
Sword	1	0.47%
Taser	1	0.47%
Wet rag	1	0.47%
Wood Plank	1	0.47%
Total	225	
Cases With Weapon Used (n=1,547)	214	13.83%
Cases With Multiple Weapons Used (n=214)	11	5.14%

Law Enforcement	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
★Law Enforcement Called (by anyone)			
Yes	906	58.56%	64.71%
No	450	29.09%	32.14%
Blank	44	2.84%	3.14%
No Paperwork	147	9.50%	
Total	1,547		
★If LE called, called to scene? (N = 906)			
Yes	741	81.79%	
No	133	14.68%	
Blank	31	3.42%	
No Paperwork	1	0.11%	
Total	906		

All Petitions (N=1,547)	Number	Percentage
Vacate Requested	414	23.76%
Temporary Custody Requested	442	28.57%
Cases With Child Involved *	723	46.74%
Child Support Requested	151	9.76%

Hearing Granted (EPO/TIPO or Summons) (N= 1,435)	Number	Percentage
Children		
Cases with Child involved*	673	46.90%
Child support requested	142	9.90%

*Includes cases where a Petitioner requested protection for a minor child or indicated the Petitioner and Respondent had a biological child in common.

EPOs/TIPOs Granted (N = 1,185)	Number	Percentage
Vacate		
Vacate Requested	355	29.96%
Vacate Ordered	341	28.78%
Percentage of Vacate Requests Granted		96.06%
Temporary Custody		
Temp Custody Requested	325	27.43%
Temp Custody Ordered	132	11.14%
Percentage of Temp Custody Requests Granted		40.62%
Temporary Child Support		
Temp Child Support Requested	113	9.54%
Type of order		
No Contact	1,089	91.90%
No Violent Contact	96	8.10%
Children Protected		
	962	
Pets protected		
	217	

Length of Time (LOT) Between Petition Date and Date of Final Hearing (not including rescinded)	
Average LOT	49 days
LOT Range	0-330 days

Hearing Outcome (EPO/TIPO + Summons = 1,435)	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
DVO / IPO Granted	414	28.85%	31.72%
Petitioner Requested to Dismiss	375	26.13%	28.74%
Court Dismissed	256	17.84%	19.62%
Agreed Order	95	6.62%	7.28%
Rescinded	64	4.46%	4.90%
Unclear Dismissed	32	2.23%	2.45%
Temporary Order Extended / Remains	20	1.39%	1.53%
Transferred	18	1.25%	1.38%
Case Sealed	10	0.70%	0.77%
Other (e.g. merged petitions)	21	1.46%	1.61%
Unknown/Missing Outcome	130	9.06%	
Total	1,435		

Of DVOs / IPOs Granted	Number	Percentage
Length		
3 mos	1	0.24%
6 mos	11	2.66%
1 yr	89	21.50%
2 yr	37	8.94%
3 yr	276	66.67%
Total	414	
Type of Order		
No Contact	332	80.19%
No Violent Contact	82	19.81%
Total	414	
Temporary Child Support		
Temp Child Support Requested	42	10.14%
Temp Child Support Ordered	13	3.14%
Percentage of Requests Granted		30.95%
Child Support Range	\$295/mo—\$2,000/mo	

Reason for Court Dismissal	Number	Percentage
Petitioner Failed to Appear	80	31.25%
Insufficient Evidence / No finding of DV	63	24.61%
Petitioner Failure to Prosecute	34	13.28%
Both parties failed to appear	33	12.89%
No Imminent Threat	11	4.30%
Doesn't Meet Statute	8	3.13%
Insufficient relationship	3	1.17%
Other (e.g. custody case, merged petitions)	24	9.38%
Total	256	

All Protective Orders

Fayette County

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Petition Outcomes	Number	Percentage
EPOs/TIPOs Granted	1,561	63.90%
Summons	487	19.93%
Denied	393	16.09%
Unknown	2	0.08%
Total Petitions	2,443	

Judicial Reason Given for Summons	Number	Percentage
No imminent threat	289	59.34%
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	106	21.77%
Fails to state an act or threat of domestic violence & abuse	45	9.24%
Insufficient relationship	19	3.90%
Unknown	6	1.23%
Doesn't meet statute	6	1.23%
Other (e.g. more info needed, appears to be custody case)	16	3.29%
Total Summons	487	

Judicial Reason Given for Denial	Number	Percentage
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	160	40.71%
Fails to state an act or threat of domestic violence & abuse	107	27.23%
Insufficient relationship	68	17.30%
Doesn't meet statute	24	6.11%
No imminent threat	10	2.54%
Unknown	4	1.02%
Other (e.g. more info needed, issues already addressed, petition illegible)	20	5.09%
Total Denials	393	

Relationship Type Between Petitioner and Respondent	Number	Percentage
Intimate Partner Violence	1,504	61.56%
Non-Domestic Violence	622	25.46%
Family Violence	208	8.52%
Unclear*	66	2.70%
Sexual Assault	43	1.76%
Total	2,443	

*Petitioner indicated "stalker," "other," or did not indicate a relationship; unable to tell from narrative if IPV or Non-DV

Relationship to Petitioner	Number	Percentage
Stalker	505	20.67%
Married (current / former)	408	16.70%
Child in Common	406	16.62%
Live(d) Together	378	15.47%
Dating	360	14.73%
Other	106	4.34%
Child	83	3.40%
Parent	45	1.84%
Sexual Assaulter	41	1.68%
Adult Sibling*	28	1.15%
Unclear	17	0.70%
Same Household as Child	17	0.70%
Stepparent	15	0.61%
Grandchild	13	0.53%
Grandparent	11	0.45%
Stepchild	10	0.41%
Total	2,443	

*"Adult Sibling" became a qualifying domestic violence relationship in July 2023; prior to that, adult siblings were indicated as "Other" or "Stalker" and are included in those categories.

Petitioner	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	1,836	75.15%	
Male	603	24.68%	
Transgender	3	0.12%	
Unclear	1	0.04%	
Total	2,443		
★Race			
White	1,130	46.25%	51.76%
Black	681	27.88%	31.19%
Latino/Hispanic	235	9.62%	10.77%
Multiracial	76	3.11%	3.48%
Asian	30	1.23%	1.37%
American Indian	13	0.53%	0.60%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	10	0.41%	0.46%
Pacific Islander	3	0.12%	0.14%
Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%
Other	5	0.20%	0.23%
Unknown	260	10.64%	
Total	2,443		
★Age			
Age Range	5 - 89		
Avg Age	49.53		
Median Age	35		

Respondent	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	780	31.93%	
Male	1,660	67.95%	
Transgender	2	0.08%	
Other	1	0.04%	
Total	2,443		
Race			
White	1,244	50.92%	51.36%
Black	900	36.84%	37.16%
Latino/Hispanic	191	7.82%	7.89%
Multiracial	46	1.88%	1.90%
Asian	17	0.70%	0.70%
American Indian	0	0%	0%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	11	0.45%	0.45%
Pacific Islander	8	0.33%	0.33%
Alaskan Native	3	0.12%	0.12%
Other	2	0.08%	0.08%
Unknown	21	0.86%	
Total	2,443		
Age			
Age Range	9 - 81		
Avg Age	45.13		
Median Age	35		

★Language for requested interpreter*	Number
Spanish	156
Arabic	13
Swahili	9
French	6
Kinyarwanda	4
American Sign Language	3
Chatino	2
Indonesian	2
Nepali	2
Vietnamese	2
Bosnian	1
Hattian Creole	1
Hindi	1
Lingala	1
Portuguese	1
Punjabi	1
Russian	1
Total Interpreters Requested	206

*Out of 2,157 cases

★Petitioner Council District	Number
1	386
2	198
3	109
4	185
5	165
6	169
7	200
8	219
9	90
10	100
11	257
12	91
Out of County	159
Unhoused/Homeless	52
No Address Provided	63
Total	2,443

★Strangulation Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	746	30.54%	34.22%
No	1,328	54.35%	60.92%
Blank	106	4.34%	4.86%
No Paperwork	263	10.77%	
Total	2,443		

★Sexual Violence Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	336	13.75%	15.43%
No	1,726	70.65%	79.24%
Blank	116	4.75%	5.33%
No Paperwork	265	10.85%	
Total	2,443		

★Stalking Indicated by Petitioner	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	1,807	73.97%	81.80%
No	331	13.55%	14.98%
Blank	71	2.90%	3.21%
No Paperwork	234	9.58%	
Total	2,443		

★Respondent Possesses Firearm	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	704	28.82%	32.13%
No	833	34.10%	38.02%
Petitioner Doesn't Known	163	6.67%	7.44%
Blank	491	20.10%	22.41%
No Paperwork	252	10.31%	
Total	2,443		

Note: If the petition narrative described or mentioned strangulation, sexual violence, stalking, or possession of a firearm, it was included as a “yes” answer. For this reason, the numbers for “no paperwork” vary.

Weapon Used in Petition Narrative	Number	Percentage
Cases with weapon used	318	13.02%
Firearms	159	
Knives & Other Cutting Instruments	72	
Blunt Objects	70	
Other Dangerous Weapons	9	
Vehicles	22	
Cases with multiple weapons used	14	

Of EPOs/TIPOs Granted (N = 1,561)		Number	Percentage
Vacate			
Vacate Requested		442	28.32%
Vacate Ordered		424	27.16%
Percentage of Vacate Requests Granted			95.93%
Temporary Custody			
Temp Custody Requested		334	21.40%
Temp Custody Ordered		133	8.52%
Percentage of Temp Custody Requests Granted			39.82%
Temporary Child Support			
Temp Child Support Requested		113	7.24%
Type of Order			
No Contact		1,451	92.95%
No Violent Contact		110	7.05%
# Children Protected			
# Pets protected		240	
Dogs		168	
Cats		66	
Other Animals		6	

Length of Time (LOT) Between Petition Date and Date of Final Hearing (not including rescinded)	
Average LOT	51 days
LOT Range	0-330 days

Hearing Outcome (EPO/TIPO + Summons = 2,050)	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
DVO / IPO Granted	564	27.51%	29.86%
Petitioner Requested to Dismiss	497	24.24%	26.31%
Court Dismissed	453	22.10%	23.98%
Agreed Order	122	5.95%	6.46%
Rescinded	103	5.02%	5.45%
Unclear Dismissed	48	2.34%	2.54%
Temporary Order Extended / Remains	34	1.66%	1.80%
Transferred	27	1.32%	1.43%
Case Sealed	16	0.78%	0.85%
Other (e.g. merged petitions)	25	1.22%	1.32%
Unknown/Missing Outcome	161	7.85%	
Total	2,050		

Of DVOs / IPOs Granted	Number	Percentage
Length		
3 mos	2	0.35%
6 mos	14	2.48%
1 yr	140	24.82%
2 yr	50	8.87%
3 yr	357	63.30%
Other	1	0.18%
Total	564	
Type of Order		
No Contact	457	81.03%
No Violent Contact	107	18.97%
Total	564	
Temporary Child Support		
Temp Child Support Requested	42	7.45%
Temp Child Support Ordered	13	2.30%
Percentage of Requests Granted		30.95%
Child Support Range	\$295/mo—\$2,000/mo	

Reason for Court Dismissal	Number	Percentage
Petitioner Failed to Appear	138	30.46%
Insufficient Evidence / No finding of DV	95	20.97%
Doesn't Meet Statute	72	15.89%
Petitioner Failure to Prosecute	44	9.71%
Both Parties Fail to Appear	37	8.17%
Insufficient Relationship	25	5.52%
No Imminent Threat	13	2.87%
Other (e.g. custody case, insufficient info)	29	6.40%
Total	453	

Non-Domestic Violence Protective Orders

Fayette County
January 1, 2023—December 31, 2023

Petitions & Outcomes	Number	Percentage
EPOs/TIPOs Granted	200	32.15%
Summons	172	27.65%
Denied	248	39.87%
Unknown	2	0.32%
Total	622	

	Number	Percentage
Cross Petitions	19	3.05%

Judicial Reason Given for Summons	Number	Percentage
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	82	47.67%
No imminent threat	60	34.88%
Insufficient relationship	17	9.88%
Doesn't meet statute	5	2.91%
Unknown	2	1.16%
Other (e.g. more info needed)	6	3.49%
Total	172	

Judicial Reason Given for Denial	Number	Percentage
Fails to state immediate & present danger of dating violence & abuse, stalking	149	60.08%
Insufficient relationship	65	26.21%
Doesn't meet statute	19	7.66%
No imminent threat	4	1.61%
Unknown	4	1.61%
Other (e.g. more info needed, issues already addressed)	7	2.82%
Total	248	

Relationship to Petitioner	Number	Percentage
Stalker	470	75.56%
Other	101	16.24%
Live(d) Together	29	4.66%
Same Household as Child	14	2.25%
Unclear	8	1.29%
Total	622	

Relationship to Petitioner	Number
Unclear	148
Neighbor	59
Ex's SO	38
SO's Ex	35
Acquaintance	19
Assaulter's SO	1
Aunt / Uncle	9
Business Transaction	4
Child's Classmate	16
Child's Classmate's Family Member	1
Child's Ex	12
Child's Friend	8
Child's Sexual Assaulter	3
Child's SO	12
Classmate	12
Coach / Player	1
Cousin	11
Coworker	11
Coworker's Ex	1
Custodian of R's Children	6
Employer / Employee	2
Ex's Ex	1
Ex's Family Member	13
Ex's Friend	1
Family Friend	3
Family Member's Ex	2
Family Member's SO	18
Former Patient / Client	2
Fraternity Member	6
Friend	11

Relationship to Petitioner	Number
Friend's Ex	5
Friend's Family Member	1
Friend's SO	4
In Law—Child	3
In Law—Parent	4
In Law—Sibling	7
Institutional Correctional Officers	1
Landlord / Tenant	11
Litigator	1
Nephew / Niece	7
Parent's Ex	1
Parent's SO	4
Property Dispute	1
Roommate	27
Roommate's Ex	2
Sibling*	23
Sibling's Classmate	1
SO's Child	2
SO's Ex's Family Member	1
SO's Family Member	16
SO's Friend	1
SO's SO (affair)	7
SO Testified Against	1
Testified Against in Criminal Case	2
Stated "No Relation"	4
Target of Paranoia (?)	7
Unrequited	11
Unrequited's SO	1
Total	622

*"Adult sibling" became a qualifying relationship in July 2023; prior to that, adult siblings were indicated as "other" or "stalker" and are included in those categories.

★Respondent Possesses Firearm	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
Yes	179	28.78%	32.60%
No	121	19.45%	22.04%
Unknown	77	12.38%	14.03%
Blank	172	27.65%	31.33%
No Paperwork	73	11.74%	
Total	622		

Weapon Used in Petition Narrative		Number	Percentage
Yes		76	12.22%
	Firearm	49	
	Knives	11	
	Blunt Objects	16	
	Vehicle	4	
Multiple Weapons		4	

Petitioner	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	457	73.47%	
Male	165	26.53%	
Transgender	0	0	
Unclear	0	0	
Total	622		
★Race			
White	285	45.82%	52.68%
Black	167	26.85%	30.87%
Latino/Hispanic	54	8.68%	9.98%
Multiracial	22	3.54%	4.07%
Asian	7	1.13%	1.29%
American Indian	4	0.64%	0.74%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	2	0.32%	0.37%
Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%
Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%
Other	0	0%	0%
Unknown	81	13.02%	
Total	622		
★Age			
Age Range	15-88		
Avg Age	46.86		
Median Age	37		

Respondent	Number	Percent	W/O Missing Data
Sex			
Female	292	46.95%	
Male	327	52.57%	
Transgender	2	0.32%	
Other	1	0.16%	
Total	622		
Race			
White	336	54.02%	54.63%
Black	222	35.69%	36.10%
Latino/Hispanic	38	6.11%	6.18%
Multiracial	12	1.93%	1.95%
Asian	2	0.32%	0.33%
American Indian	0	0%	0%
Middle Eastern/ Northern African	2	0.32%	0.33%
Pacific Islander	1	0.16%	0.16%
Alaskan Native	1	0.16%	0.16%
Other	1	0.16%	0.16%
Unknown	7	1.13%	
Total	622		
Age			
Age Range	13-80		
Avg Age	42.24		
Median Age	33.5		

Law Enforcement	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
★Law Enforcement Called (by anyone)			
Yes	372	59.81%	68.51%
No	137	22.03%	25.23%
Blank	34	5.47%	6.26%
No Paperwork	79	12.70%	
Total	622		
★If LE called, called to scene? (N = 372)			
Yes	272	73.02%	
No	72	19.62%	
Blank	27	7.08%	
No Paperwork	1	0.27%	
Total	372		

Of EPOs/TIPOs Granted (N =200)	Number	Percentage
Vacate		
Vacate Requested	21	10.05%
Vacate Ordered	18	9.00%
Percentage of requests granted	58.71%	
Type of Order		
No Contact	199	99.50%
No Violent Contact	1	0.50%
# Children Protected		
	104	
# Pets protected		
	1	

Length of Time Between Petition Date and Date of Final Hearing	
Average LOT, not including rescinded	57 days
LOT Range	2-324

Hearing Outcome	Number	Percentage	W/O Missing Data
DVO / IPO Granted	70	18.72%	19.55%
Petitioner Requested to Dismiss	78	20.86%	21.79%
Court Dismissed	134	35.83%	37.43%
Agreed Order	19	5.08%	5.31%
Rescinded	20	5.35%	5.89%
Unclear Dismissed	11	2.94%	3.07%
Temporary Order Extended / Remains	12	3.21%	3.35%
Transferred	9	2.41%	2.51%
Case Sealed	3	0.80%	0.84%
Other (e.g. merged petition)	2	0.53%	0.56%
Unknown/Missing Outcome	16	4.28%	
Total	374		

Of DVOs / IPOs Granted (N = 564)	Number	Percentage
Length		
1 yr	20	28.57%
2 yr	6	8.57%
3 yr	44	62.86%
Total	70	
Type of Order		
No Contact	67	95.71%
No Violent Contact	3	4.29%
Total	70	

Reason for Court Dismissal	Number	Percentage
Doesn't Meet Statute	55	41.04%
Petitioner Failed to Appear	34	25.37%
Insufficient relationship	17	12.69%
Insufficient Evidence / No finding of DV	15	11.19%
Petitioner Failure to Prosecute	3	2.24%
No Imminent Threat	2	1.49%
Both Parties Fail to Appear	1	0.75%
Other (e.g. lack of information)	7	5.22%
Total	134	

domestic & sexual violence _____
Prevention Coalition 

Lexington Department of Social Services
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