



Prosecutor, Victim Advocate, and Domestic Violence Advocate Guide to Hope Card Legislation [Judiciary Law 858]

What is a Hope Card?

A Hope Card is a portable version of an Order of Protection. The Hope Card program allows anyone protected by an active final Order of Protection to request and receive a physical Hope Card, a digital Hope Card, or both.

- A physical Hope Card is a durable, wallet-sized card with a summary of the information of an Order of Protection. There is also a link on the card to a digital image of the Order of Protection.
- A digital Hope Card is a digital image of the Order of Protection and is sent to the protected party by email or text message with a secure link to the digital image.

Law Enforcement

A Hope Card can be provided to law enforcement in place of a paper Order of Protection. A Hope Card has the same effect as a paper copy for determining if there is reasonable cause for an arrest [see CPL 140.10 (4)(b)]. The information on a Hope Card can be used to look up a final Order of Protection in eJustice.

Who can request a Hope Card?

Any protected party with an active final Order of Protection can request a Hope Card.

If the final Order of Protection was issued in a family or matrimonial (divorce) case, the protected party's attorney may request a Hope Card. If the protected party is under 18, their attorney, parent, or guardian can request a Hope Card on their behalf, as long as they are not the against party. An agency that has custody of a child who is a protected party may request a Hope Card on the child's behalf.

- If the final Order of Protection was issued in a criminal case, the district attorney, a crime victim advocate, or a domestic violence advocate may also request a Hope Card for the protected party. If the protected party is under 18, their attorney, parent, or guardian can request a Hope Card on their behalf, as long as they are not the against party.
- If the court has ordered that the protected party's address is confidential, requesting a Hope Card will not change that. When there is a request for a physical Hope Card to be mailed, the address and contact information given is only used to issue and send the Hope Card. It does not change the case information in the court's computer system, and it is not shared with anyone.

How to request a Hope Card

There are two ways to request a Hope Card:

1. Go to the Hope Card website at <https://hope.nycourts.gov> and use the Request a Hope Card button to complete and submit a Hope Card request electronically.
2. Complete a paper Hope Card Request form and submit it at any criminal, family, or supreme court. (To get a paper form, use the link below or go to any criminal, family or supreme courthouse.)

For more information about the Hope Card program, visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Hope Card website a <https://hope.nycourts.gov>.