

INJUNCTION HEARINGS

What should I know before my injunction hearing?

What should I do before the hearing to prepare my case?

WITNESSES

Contact witnesses who saw the alleged abuse or injuries. No written statements are accepted. Witnesses must appear and testify at the final hearing.

Witnesses may include – a friend, a family member, children*, a medical professional, or a law enforcement officer who saw or heard the alleged abuse or injuries.

**A minor child shall not be brought to a hearing to appear as a witness without prior order of the court. A motion may be filed with the Clerk's Office in room 320 to request that the court enter an order authorizing a minor child to appear at the court proceeding.*

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Gather evidence and documents showing the alleged abuse or injuries. Documents* can be printed at the self help center located on the 3rd floor, room 340 for \$.15 cents per page. The rules of evidence may require that some documents be certified copies.

**If documents and evidence are not in English, you must provide a written English translation by a certified interpreter*

Evidence* may include:

- Medical reports
- Printed pictures of your injuries
- Printed social media posts
- Printed e-mails and text messages
- Video and/or audio of the incident(s) on a jump drive or CD which can be put into evidence

**A copy of any evidence must be provided to the court at the time of the hearing. Parties must bring a source on which to play any video or audio recording to the court.*

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR THE DAY OF THE HEARING

Law enforcement must serve the RESPONDENT with the Petition for injunction and the order setting the final hearing. If the RESPONDENT has **not** been served, your case will be extended to another date.

Parties **shall not** bring minor children to the court hearing without first having an order from the court allowing the child to attend.

Prepare to be at the courthouse for approximately four hours. There is a check-in process, and there may be hearings before yours. If you have a conflict with the scheduled time, you may file a motion with the Clerk's Office in room 320.

If you have an emergency on the day of the hearing, please send an email to the domestic violence unit at InjunctionsOrange@ocnjcc.org Include the case number, names of the parties and the type of emergency you are having.



What should I do on the day of the hearing?

PETITIONERS are to report to room 1620 on the 16th floor.

RESPONDENTS are to report to room 1625 on the 16th floor.

- Have your witnesses present and ready.
- **Have your evidence ready and printed.**
- Listen to all instructions from court staff carefully.
- Speak directly to the judge.
- Do not speak or argue with the other party during the hearing.