

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 03- 9146

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER TASKFORCE

1. The Texas Access to Justice Commission surveyed every county in Texas to ascertain the availability of protective orders for victims of family violence. The 2001 survey results verified concerns that in many counties, victims of abuse do not have ready access to protective orders.

2. Many other states have provided access to protective orders by creating a pro se protective order system. Pro se forms have the potential to improve access to protective orders for victims of domestic violence.

The Supreme Court is concerned about the accessibility of protective orders for victims of domestic violence. After consultation with the State Bar of Texas, the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section and the Texas Access to Justice Commission, the Court agrees that providing a pro se protective order kit would expand and enhance access to protection from domestic violence. The Court **HEREBY ORDERS**

The appointment and creation of a Supreme Court Protective Order Taskforce. The Supreme Court Protective Order Taskforce will:

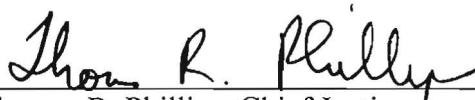
1. Draft an easily readable domestic violence protective order kit, including an application and an order;
2. Draft an implementation plan that will make the protective order kit readily available both online and directly from law enforcement officers who respond to family violence calls; and
3. Draft a final report to the Court due no later than August 31, 2004. The report should include:
 - a summary of progress and challenges faced by the group;
 - a final draft of the kit, including but not limited to a petition and order;
 - the website URL at which the kit can be found;
 - minutes from each taskforce meeting; and
 - a proposal suggesting other means to make domestic violence protective orders more accessible, such as recommendations as to service or collaborations with law enforcement.

4. The following members are hereby appointed:

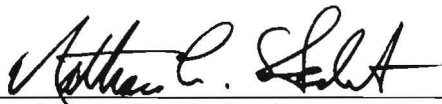
Stewart Gagnon, Chair, Houston
Sandra Avila, Edinburg
Cynthia Dyer, Dallas
Rhonda Gerson, Houston
The Honorable Toby Goodman, Arlington
Sue M. Hall, San Antonio
Jeana Lungwitz, Austin
The Honorable Patricia Macias, El Paso
Marcus D. Taylor, Quitman
Amy Wright, Austin

Justice Harriet O'Neill, Supreme Court Liaison

BY THE COURT, IN CHAMBERS, this 9th day of September, 2003.



Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice



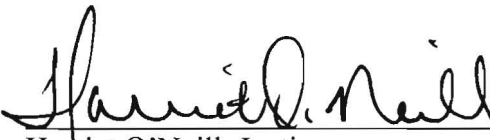
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice



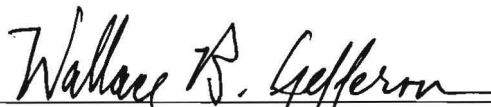
Craig T. Enoch, Justice




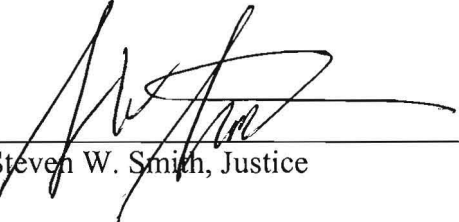
Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

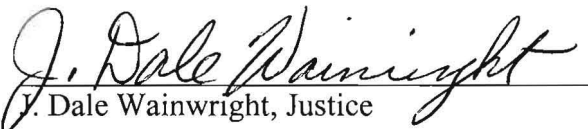


Harriet O'Neill, Justice


Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice


Michael H. Schneider, Justice


Steven W. Smith, Justice


J. Dale Wainwright, Justice