

Protection Order Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote via Zoom

MINUTES

January 23, 2026

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. Attendance: Mag. Julie Verheye, Chair; Hon. Kristen McVey; Hon. Jon Brown; Bernadette Manuel; Hon. Patricia McMath; Hon. Mary Margaret Lloyd; Mag. Jerome Charls; Mag. Melinda Jackman-Hanlin; Mag. Samantha Wuletich; Hon. Kristina Kantar; Mag. Katie Melnick; Mag. Marci Harper; Mag. Brandi Foster Kirkendall
Staff: Melissa Arvin, Tom Jones, Jamie Devine, Carl Cowan, Annette Page
2. August 2025 minutes approved.
3. Legislation
 - a. Military Protection Orders: The committee discussed the current language in the protection order bill. Concerns were expressed regarding the language in the original form. Those concerns were communicated through the appropriate channels to amend the language and address the committee's concerns.
4. Statewide Protection Order Court: A proposal from the Innovation Committee and IOCS regarding a centralized protection order court that could assist counties with rulings on ex parte PO petitions. A number of concerns and issues were raised by the members of the committee and those concerns were related back to appropriate parties.

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February 27, 2026

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. Attendance: Mag. Julie Verheye, Chair; Mag. Marci Harper, Hon. Kristina Kantar; Mag. Melinda Jackman-Hanlin; Mag. Jerome Charls, Bernadette Manuel, Hon. Kristen McVey
Staff: Melissa Arvin, Tom Jones, Annette Page, Carl Cowan,
Guest: Hon. Mary Margaret Lloyd
2. January 2026 Minutes approved.
3. Legislation: Military Protection Order bill has been amended to address the Committee's concerns. The bill has now passed both houses and will be sent to the Governor for signature. Forms will be amended to reflect the new language.
4. Update on NCO End Dates: IOCS and IOCT have had further discussions on the mandatory end date issue. There may be an easier tech solution to the issue and developers are being consulted on the problem. Updates will be provided to the Committee as they are available.
5. Update on new e-filing portal: The new PO e-filing portal will be released with the new general e-filing system.
6. New projects for the Committee: PO Benchbook can be updated every year with small updates on case law and new statutes. Committee agrees to do that and will start discussion at the next meeting.

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March 27, 2026

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. Attendance: Mag. Julie Verheye, Chair; Mag. Samantha Wuletich; Hon. Bruce McTavish; Hon. Kristina Kantar, Mag. Jerome Charls; Mag. Katie Melnick; Hon. Patricia McMath
Staff: Carl Cowan, Thomas Jones, Melissa Arvin
2. February 2026 minutes are approved.
3. Update Protection Order Bench Book: Chapters assigned to members for updates. Updates are due by October 23, 2026 at the last meeting of the year. Reviews will happen at that meeting. Individual chapters will be sent to members assigned for their edits. Changes will be tracked so the changes can be easily reviewed.

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June 26, 2026

1:05 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

5. Attendance: Mag. Julie Verheye, Chair; Mag. Marci Harper; Mag. Brandi Foster Kirkendall; Mag. Samantha Wuletich; Hon. Kristina Kantar; Hon. Bruce MacTavish; Mag. Katie Melnick
Staff: Melissa Arvin, Carl Cowan, Annette Page, Tom Jones
6. March 2026 minutes are approved.
 - a. Case Law Updates: Discussion was had with the committee on recent cases: A.M. v. A.H. 262 N.E.3d 916 (Ind. Ct. App. 2025); T.M. v. M.M. 268 N.E.3d 869 (Ind. Ct. App. 2025) and published case: K.A. V. Z.G. 275 N.E.3d 939 (Ind. Ct. App. 2026).
7. IOCT Update on Statutory changes in the POR/E-filing: All statutory changes have been made, and forms have been updated online.
8. Committee discussed emerging issues with protection orders being requested from landlords against tenants and debtors against creditors under the harassment prong of the statute.