

**PROTECTION ORDER HEARINGS
GUIDELINES**

- 1. Evidence.** The evidence that *may be* considered during the evidentiary hearing will be limited to the Petition and other documents/pleadings initially filed by the Petitioner, written Declarations, exhibits and testimony of the Petitioner and/or the Respondent. The alleged Vulnerable Adult (in the Vulnerable Adult Protection Order matters) will also be allowed to testify.
- 2. Provide Other Party a Copy.** If a party wishes to provide the Court with any evidence in addition to their testimony, that party shall provide the other party a copy of the proposed evidence at least one business day before the scheduled hearing.
- 3. Delivery of Exhibits.** All proposed Exhibits are to be delivered to the Clerk's office not later than one business day before the scheduled hearing. *Business days do not include weekends or holidays.* All electronic exhibits (audio and/or video recordings) will be accepted only in a thumb drive format and shall be delivered to the Clerk's office with an attached paper with the name of the case, the cause number, and the date and time of the hearing. The original and one copy of any thumb drive shall be provided to the clerk in accordance with this paragraph. Other electronic formats may be allowed upon approval of the Court.
- 4. Discretion of the Court.** The Judge/Commissioner presiding over the hearing, at his/her discretion, may allow additional testimony from other witness(es) on a limited basis; may limit cross-examination; and, for good cause, may consider evidence that was not provided to the other party in advance.
- 5. Interpreter/ADA Accommodation Requests.** All requests for an interpreter or ADA Accommodations are to be made at least five (5) days before the hearing by contacting Court Administration at (360) 427-8440.