THE TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, 1M
Boston, MA 02108

TO: Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association

DATE: October 8, 2026

RE: G.L. c. 209A Abuse Prevention Order Form Update

The Trial Court has updated the G.L. c. 209A (Abuse Prevention) Order form. The update to the 209A Order form requires changes to the packet of forms[1] that must be used when an emergency 209A Order is requested outside regular court hours through the Judicial Response System. The Trial Court makes the required packet forms available to police departments in carbon copy packets or in electronic form.

Carbon Copy Judicial Response 209A Packets

The Trial Court has ordered new carbon copy Judicial Response 209A packets. Police departments may request new carbon copy Judicial Response 209A packets by email at: emergencyprotectionorders@jud.state.ma.us.[2] Please include the following information in the request:

- The name of the person to whose attention the packets should be shipped;
- The name of the police department;
- The shipping address;
- The number of packets requested.

Police departments should dispose of any prior versions of the Judicial Response 209A packets they may still have, as the updated version accounts for changes in the law. The updated Judicial Response 209A packet contains the below notation in the bottom left corner of each form:

> "*Standardized (Judicial Response) – For Use by Police Officers Accessing the Judicial Response System (07/26)".*

[1] The "packet" includes the (1) Complaint for Protection from Abuse; (2) G.L. c. 209A Abuse Prevention Order; (3) Plaintiff's Affidavit; (4) Defendant Information Form; (5) Plaintiff Confidential Information Form; and (6) Return of Service.
[2] The same process should be used to order 258E Harassment Prevention Order carbon copy packets.

Electronic Judicial Response 209A Forms

As an alternative to the carbon copy Judicial Response 209A packets, police departments may elect to use the electronic application materials that are posted on mass.gov. For security purposes, the Trial Court does not post the 209A Order form or the Return of Service form on mass.gov, and instead provides electronic, PDF-fillable versions of those forms directly to police departments. The updated **209A Order Form** and **Return of Service** are attached to this notice. The updated pdf-fillable 209A Order form contains the below notation in the bottom left corner:

> *"Standardized (BMC, DC, PFC, SC) – Civil – TC0042 (10/26)".*

Distribution of Completed Forms

Below is a list of what each party should receive and when.

- After an order is issued by the judge, the **Plaintiff** receives a copy of:
- the Complaint AND
- the Order.
- On the next business day after an order is issued, copies of the following shall be delivered to the **Clerk-Magistrate** of the court where the Order is returnable:
- the Complaint,
- the Order,
- Plaintiff's Affidavit,
- Defendant Information Form,
- Plaintiff Confidential Information Form in a sealed envelope, AND
- the Return of Service.
- As soon as possible after an Order is issued, the **Defendant** is served with copies of:
- the Complaint, AND
- the Order
- **Police** should maintain a copy of the Order for their own records.

Please contact Sarah Farley (Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordinator for the Trial Court) at sarah.farley@jud.state.ma.us with any questions.