

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

ORDER ADOPTING LOCAL RULE 31

ELECTRONIC FILING OF PETITIONS FOR ORDERS OF PROTECTION

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§16-1-113 and 16-1-115, as well as Tennessee Attorney General's Opinion #00-124, the following shall be the rule for the electronic filing of petitions for orders of protection:

Internet Filing

The filing of petitions electronically through the internet is predicated on the availability of an electronic signature pad. Presently, the only authorized signature pad is located at the Family Justice Center (FJC). This device will allow the petitioners' signatures to be transmitted to the Clerk's office and will not retain in any way the signatures for further use or recognition. Petitioners will have their signatures notarized at the FJC. Forms will be sent by the internet to the Clerk's office for the Judge's consideration, possible entry, filing, scheduling, and service of process.

Fax Filing

Petitions may also be filed electronically via FAX. Petition forms will be available electronically or on hard copy. These forms may be completed at the FJC or at an attorney's office. After the application is complete, the petitioner will appear before a Notary Public or Clerk of Court to be sworn and to sign the original affidavit. The application may then be filed by FAX to the Clerk's office for the Judge's consideration. **However, no process shall issue until the Clerk has received the original hard copy affidavit verifying the petition with the petitioner's signature.**

ENTER, this 26th day of March 2007:

JUDGE BILL SWANN