

Frequently Asked Questions

New Codes for the Domestic Violence Registry

This document is a compilation of frequently asked questions related to the Field Advisory, dated July 8, 2022, on New Codes for the Domestic Violence Registry (“Registry”).

1.	Do the new status codes apply to all restraining orders (harassment prevention orders and abuse prevention orders)?	Yes. All restraining orders are entered into the Registry, and the same status codes apply. Please see the Restraining, Protective, and Abuse Prevention Orders chart, dated July 20, 2022.
2.	Are emergency, temporary, and permanent orders all entered into the Registry?	Yes, when a court issues a restraining order, no matter the type, it must be entered into the Registry. When entering the order, please choose the type that most closely reflects the type of order issued. Please see the Restraining, Protective, and Abuse Prevention Orders chart, dated June 29, 2022.
3.	At what point do we enter an order into the Registry?	The session law that created the registry (c. 188 of the Acts of 1992) orders the Commissioner of Probation to create a “computerized record of the <u>issuance</u> ...” of all restraining orders. Therefore, an order must be entered into the Registry once the court issues it. Remember, emergency orders issued overnight by the on-call judge must be entered into the Registry as soon as possible the next business day.
4.	When do we use the code “closed-denied”?	This code is used when an on-call judge issued an emergency order overnight, and then, when the plaintiff appeared the next morning, the judge denied the order.
5.	What if the judge does not issue the order, but instead puts the matter over for a two-party hearing?	This scenario is not specifically addressed in the law. However, since the law mandates that orders are entered upon “issuance,” matters that <u>not issued</u> , but put over to a two-party hearing, would not be entered into the Registry. If after the two-party hearing, the judge issues the order, we must enter it then.

Examples of How to Use Codes

OPEN	This code is used when a judge issues an order and remains coded this way while the order is still open and active.
CLOSED-EXPIRED	This code is used when an order expires by operation of law. For example, the judge issued a temporary order, and the plaintiff failed to appear at the extension hearing.
CLOSED-VACATED	This code is used when a judge (either in the local or the appellate court) vacates a previously issued order, for whatever reason. The docket must read “vacated” to use this code.
CLOSED-DENIED	This code is used when the judge issued an emergency or temporary order, and at the extension hearing, the plaintiff appears seeking extension of the order, but the judge denies the order.
CLOSED	This code is used when an order is closed, but it is unclear why or how it was closed. This code may be updated to one of the above if it is brought to our attention by a party or the court / appellate court, and the status is clear from the docket.