
Georgia's Automated Protective Order Registry

A Report Of the Georgia
Statistical Analysis Center

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
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Georgia's Automated Protective Order Registry

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This study was conducted on behalf of the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the Georgia Statistical Analysis Center to determine whether the Georgia automated Protective Order Registry (*hereinafter referred to as the POR*) is meeting important elements of its legislative mandate.

“...The registry is intended to enhance victim safety by providing law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, and the courts access to protective orders issued by courts of this state and foreign courts 24 hours of the day and seven days of the week. Access to the registry is intended to aid law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, and the courts in the enforcement of protective orders and the protection to victims of stalking and family violence...” (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-52 (a)).

This study examined numerous questions related to access and utilization of protective order information within Georgia’s criminal justice community. This study does not address whether the protective order, as a legal instrument, actually enhances victim safety, although the survey component does measure whether practitioners perceive protective orders as an effective tool to protect victims. To assist policy makers in improving the registry, several questions were examined:

1. Do law enforcement agencies routinely access the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) web-based Protective Order Registry (POR) in those cases where the protective order is not listed with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)?
2. What is the extent of POR utilization among Georgia prosecutors (district attorneys and solicitors) and state and superior court personnel?
3. Do prosecutors use the POR to learn about a defendant’s prior protective order history to make sentence recommendations?
4. Do Georgia judges take prior POR history into account when sentencing a defendant?
5. What is the relationship between POR utilization among the criminal justice community and the prevalence of domestic violence in Georgia counties?

Background

Georgia enacted the Family Violence and Stalking Protective Order Act in 2001 (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-52). This act creates a 24-hour centralized database for statewide protective orders designed to protect victims by offering law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and the courts near real-time access (within 24 hours) to orders issued in Georgia courts or issued by other states. The registry provides the status and conditions of the protective order, allowing law enforcement officers to make field determinations as to whether a respondent¹ has violated the court order.

The registry process begins with a judge issuing a protective order for family violence or stalking. A court clerk enters the order into the case management system maintained by the Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA). At the end of each day, the GSCCCA submits the orders electronically to GCIC where they are published on the GCIC web-based registry. The web site is available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts, although the sheriff's office is the only agency authorized to modify or update order information.

Using standardized forms established by Uniform Superior Court rules, all orders describe the petitioner, children (if any), and all court ordered conditions, which typically order the respondent to stay a specified distance away from the victim's residence, workplace, school, and other designated locations. They can also order respondents to avoid other forms of contact including telephone, fax, email, pagers, and other electronic communications. The order can specify conditions of child custody and child-support payment.

The GCIC registry includes the respondent's personal information, including name, social security number, date-of-birth, race, ethnic background, weight, height, marks/tattoos, drivers license number, vehicle tag, and residence. If GCIC determines that required personal information is known about the respondent, the order and respondent information are submitted to the NCIC "hot-list." The hot-list is maintained by the FBI to assist in early identification of wanted persons, foreign fugitives, missing persons, deported felons, protective orders, registered convicted sexual offenders, and convicted persons on supervised release. However, if pertinent information is incomplete at the state level, NCIC will not accept the protective order for inclusion on the hot-list. In these cases, the order and respondent information are still available on GCIC's web-based POR. This may occur in cases such as stalking where the respondent's identity is unknown (since name is required by the FBI hot-list).

¹ As a civil order, the respondent is the person to whom the protective order restrictions apply, while the petitioner is the person filing the request for the court order and seeking protection.

Georgia Protective Order Registry Utilization

Utilization refers to whether Georgia’s criminal justice agencies use the GCIC web-based POR and the NCIC hot-list to protect victims and prosecute offenders involved in domestic violence. To address utilization, this study relied on a statewide mail survey of registered POR users and potential, but unregistered, POR users. Detailed information on local policies, procedures and practices related to domestic violence and protective orders was gathered. Finally, GCIC registry website traffic data was analyzed.

Since creation of the Georgia web-based POR, GCIC has accepted 48,526 protective orders. Today, there are 6,206 active orders and 42,320 inactive orders². Among active orders, 4,069 (82%) are on the NCIC hot-list. GCIC reports that 109 Georgia agencies and one federal agency are registered POR website users³, representing 558 people. Table 1 summarizes the POR users by agency type.

Table 1. Georgia POR Registered

<u>Agency Type</u>	<u>Registered</u>
Sheriff's Office	39
Police Department	28
911 Communication	6
District Attorney	10
Solicitor	4
Court	10
Other	13
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 110

Since there are 159 sheriffs, 48 judicial circuits, and several hundred municipal police departments in Georgia, it appears at first glance that agencies have underutilized the registry during the first 24 months of operation. Underutilization of the POR is evident by the low number of Georgia Sheriff’s agencies using the site (39 of 159). Only Georgia Sheriff’s have the authority to modify or update protective orders, and only one-quarter have registered access to Georgia’s POR. It is important to keep in mind that the failure of Sheriff’s to register does not suggest that victims cannot seek relief through court orders. The initial process goes through the court and the clerk’s office, the Clerks Cooperative Authority, and GCIC without any action required on the part of the Sheriff. The Sheriff is only needed if there is a modification or update to an existing order. In most cases, such as an extension of an expired order, the petitioner pursues an entirely new order through the courts and not a modification to an existing order. Our survey indicates that most law

² GCIC POR raw data, 2004.

³ Registered denotes whether the agency has requested authorization to access the POR website.

enforcement agencies access protective orders through NCIC, which contains 82% of Georgia's active protective orders on their hot-list.

Protective Order Registry Mail Survey

A statewide mail survey was conducted to examine utilization of the web-based POR. The survey was sent to all 558 registered users of the POR, and a random sample of approximately 1,000 potential POR users. Surveys were designed and deployed for four target audiences: registered first responders (law enforcement officers and sheriff's deputies), non-registered first responders, registered criminal justice professionals (judges, district attorneys, solicitors), and non-registered criminal justice professionals. The names and addresses of all registered POR users were obtained from GCIC. The non-registered user information was obtained from databases containing information on Georgia judges, county solicitors, district attorneys, assistant district attorneys, the chief's of local law enforcement agencies, and Georgia sheriffs.

A total of 1,573 surveys were mailed (all 558 registered users, and a random sample of 1,015 non-registered users). See Appendix A-D for a copy of the survey questions. Introduction letters were mailed on November 15, 2004, followed by the survey one week later, and a reminder postcard two weeks after the survey mailing. The final deadline for receipt of returned surveys was January 14, 2005. Forty-nine surveys were returned for incorrect addresses, or were addressed to staff no longer employed at the agency, reducing the sample size to 1,524. A total of 716 completed surveys were received by the deadline, or a response rate of 47%. Table 2 below describes the response rate for each survey.

Table 2. POR Mail Surveys And Response Rates

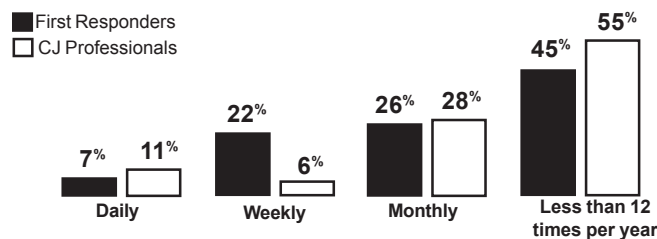
Survey Type	# Surveys Mailed	# Returned For Incorrect Address	# Surveys Completed & Returned	Response Rate
POR Registered First Responders	473	24	195	43%
POR Registered Criminal Justice Personnel	85	5	44	55%
Non-Registered First Responders	260	3	159	62%
Non-Registered Criminal Justice Personnel	755	17	318	43%
All Surveys Combined	1,573	49	716	47%

The surveys covered an array of questions related to POR utilization. The registered user surveys dealt with issues pertaining to how protective order registry information is currently used, who accesses the data within the agency, and specific changes that would make the registry more useful. The non-user survey covered issues such as registry awareness, and how agencies currently access information on active and inactive orders.

Results: Registered POR Users

- While the agencies surveyed were all registered, only 61% of first responders, and 50% of criminal justice professionals, reported having ever actually used the POR.
- Of those who have used the online POR, approximately one-half report using it less than 12 times per year. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. How Often Do You Usually Access The POR Website?



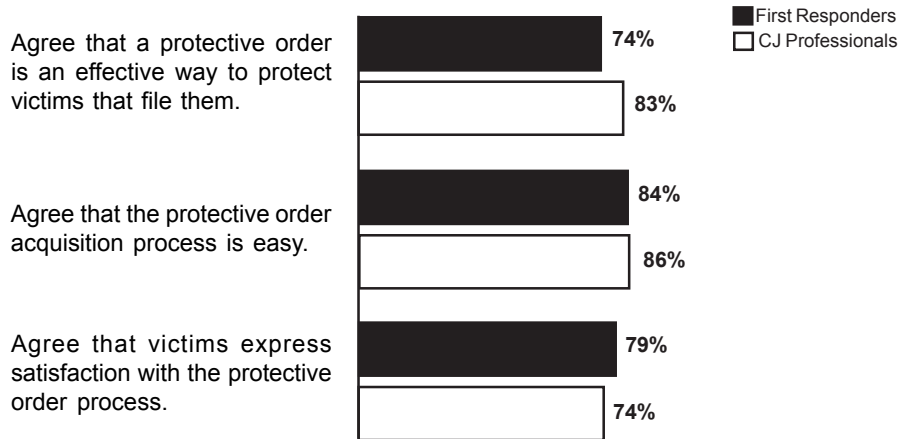
- Most POR users are able to access the site through their agency’s internet service (92% first responders, 96% criminal justice professionals), and most do not have trouble accessing the site (86% first responders, 83% criminal justice professionals).
- Over half of POR users access the website themselves when they need information (60% first responders, 52% criminal justice professionals), as opposed to relying on someone in their office.
- Registered users were asked where they obtain information on active and inactive protective orders. The most common response for active order information given by first responders was the POR (35%), and the most common answer for criminal justice professionals was the court clerk’s office (55%). Inactive order information is most commonly obtained via the POR for first responders (37%) and the court clerk’s office for criminal justice professionals (50%). See Table 3 on the next page.

Table 3. Where Do You Primarily Get Information On Protective Orders?

	First Responders	CJ Professionals
Active Protective Orders		
NCIC	26%	11%
Petitioner/Complainant	9%	7%
Georgia's POR	35%	21%
Court Clerk's Office	29%	55%
Other	20%	14%
Inactive Protective Orders		
NCIC	14%	2%
Petitioner/Complainant	7%	7%
GCIC	NA	2%
Court Clerk's Office	28%	50%
Georgia's POR	37%	14%
Other	18%	14%

- Users were asked to list all the processes for which the POR was used at their agency. The top three first responder answers were: verify/read protective order on the scene (57%), investigations (32%), determining a history of inactive protective orders (32%). The top three answers given by the criminal justice professionals were: determining a history of inactive protective orders (32%), investigations (25%), and case preparation (18%).
- When asked if there was specific information missing from the POR website that would be useful, 14% of first responders and 24% of criminal justice professionals indicated that there was missing information. However, none of those responding listed the *specific types* of missing information.
- In the space provided for comments on the survey, the most common notations revolved around the need for more training and information on the POR, and concerns that the registry is not current/accurate.
- Most respondents believe that protective orders are an effective way to protect victims, that the protective order acquisition process is easy, and that victims are satisfied with the protective order process in Georgia. See Figure 2 on the next page.

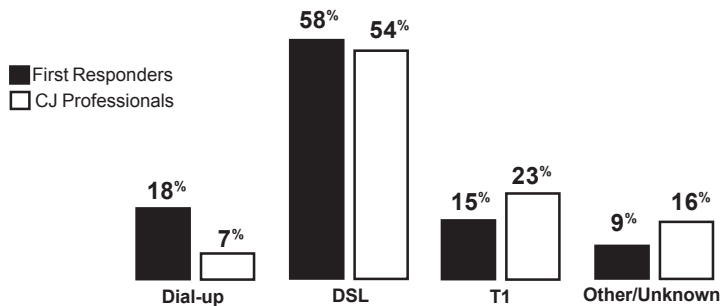
Figure 2. Opinions of Registered First Responders and Criminal Justice Professionals



Results: Non-Registered Potential POR Users

- Only 48% of non-registered first responders and 54% of non-registered criminal justice professionals indicated they had heard of the online POR.
- Ninety-six percent of both groups said they had internet access at their agency. Figure 3 below provides a breakdown of the types of internet connection reported. Since static DSL, T1 or a higher connection is necessary to access the POR, those respondents reporting a dial-up connection would be unable to connect to the website. Of those with a DSL connection, it is unknown how many have a static connection. Those with a dynamic DSL connection would be unable to access the site.

Figure 3. Type of Internet Connection Service You Have:



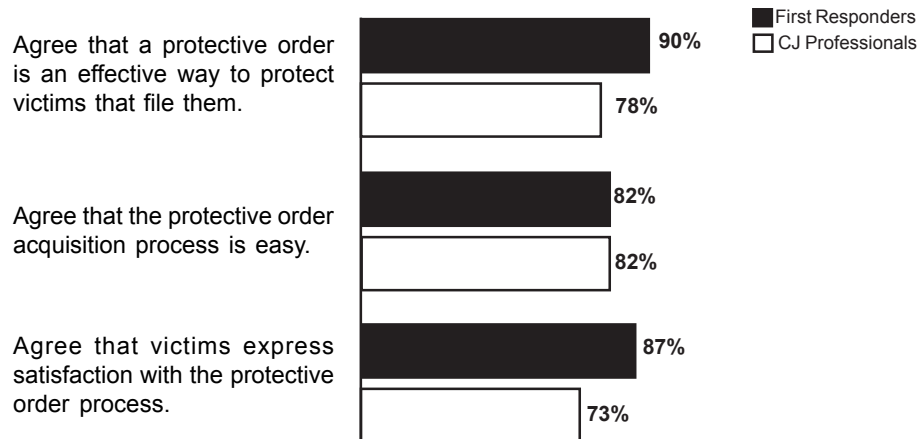
- When asked where information on active and inactive protective orders is obtained, the most common response given by both groups of respondents was the court clerk’s office. See Table 4 on the next page. It is unclear why some respondents reported obtaining protective order information from Georgia’s POR, as none of these respondents have registered access to the site.

Table 4. Where Do You Primarily Get Information On Protective Orders?

	<u>Non Registered First Responders</u>	<u>Non-Registered CJ Professionals</u>
Active Protective Orders		
NCIC	31%	8%
Petitioner/Complainant	32%	37%
Georgia's POR	4%	3%
Court Clerk's Office	51%	59%
Other	14%	16%
Inactive Protective Orders		
NCIC	22%	5%
Petitioner/Complainant	22%	30%
Court Clerk's Office	50%	55%
Georgia's POR	4%	3%
Other	14%	11%

- Non-users were asked to list all the processes for which they thought the POR information would be useful. The top three first responder answers mirrored the top three answers given by registered users: verify/read protective order on the scene (82%), investigations (81%), determining a history of inactive protective orders (73%). Two of the top three answers given by the criminal justice professionals were the same as those of registered users. Non-registered users ranked using the POR for prosecutorial decisions much higher than actual users ranked using the site for that purpose. The answers provided by the non-users were: determining a history of inactive protective orders (77%), prosecutorial decisions (73%), and investigations (71%).
- Most non-users of the POR believe that protective orders are an effective way to protect victims, that the protective order acquisition process is easy, and that victims are satisfied with the protective order process. See Figure 4 below.

Figure 4. Opinions of Non-Registered First Responders and Criminal Justice Professionals



- In the space provided for comments on the non-user survey, the most common notations revolved around the desire for more information on registering for the POR, and concerns that the registry is not current/accurate.

Website Traffic Analysis

As web-host for the protective order registry, GCIC maintains all web traffic data related to users accessing the website. ARS analyzed all of the data from the inception of the automated POR. During that time, 558 persons representing 110 criminal justice agencies had obtained registered access to the site (Table 1 shows the breakdown of registered agency types). Since inception, the POR has had over 6,000 log-ons. The median number of log-ons per user is three, and the average number of log-ons per user is 21. This implies a small number of frequent POR users, and a large number of infrequent users. The website traffic analysis also shows that 39% of registered first responders, and 50% of registered criminal justice professionals, have *never* logged onto the POR. It is possible that such registered persons rely on other active registered users in the same office for POR data.

Based on current POR website activity and user logs, only 45% of Georgia counties have at least one agency listed as a registered user. That is, 55% of Georgia counties have no agencies registered with the GCIC POR website. Even if users share POR information in the same county, these findings still underscore a serious utilization problem. Such utilization does vary across county size, with higher rates of utilization among more populated counties. See Figure 5.

Figure 5. Percent of Georgia Counties Registered As Protective Order Registry Users



(Rural: < 110,000 population; Transitional: 110,000-500,000 population; Urban: > 500,000 population)

Aggregating POR and Family Violence Data

An important policy question is whether the POR process is widely adopted in Georgia counties as a method to combat domestic violence. One would expect that counties with high levels of domestic violence should have high levels of registry activity in terms of the number of protective orders and prosecutorial/court reliance on the registry for

prosecution and sentencing. However, if there is no relationship, an alternative conclusion may be that the county is not aggressively using the POR as a tool to combat family violence. Before we can answer this question, we must be capable of measuring the volume of family violence in Georgia. There are only three data sources available to measure the prevalence of domestic violence in Georgia: Uniform Crime Reports, Computerized Criminal History Data, and Georgia Family Violence Complaints. Unfortunately, each has inherent problems.

FBI Uniform Crime Report

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program has been in existence for decades but is not an adequate source for domestic violence data. While the FBI Index includes data on offenses commonly involved in domestic violence incidents, such as aggravated assault, there is no way to determine whether the incident involved intimates (to be described as "domestic"). UCR arrest statistics do include offenses against family and children, but this category only includes charges of nonsupport (alimony, child support), abandonment, neglect, and abuse.

Georgia's Computerized Criminal History Data

Georgia's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data also provides a limited source of domestic violence data. In Georgia, only a few statutes treat domestic/family violence as a separate criminal charge. Unfortunately, the only way to identify arrestees in the CCH database for a domestic/family violence arrest would be through locating arrestee records with the specific charge of family violence. In Georgia, most arrests for domestic violence are captured in the CCH database as assault, battery, and other crime codes that make the event indistinguishable from a non-domestic violence incident. For a few offenses, crimes are distinguished. For example, simple battery and simple assault have a separate statutory sub-section that makes it a misdemeanor of a "high and aggravated nature" if the offense occurs between family members.⁴ Penalties are greater if convicted of a battery involving family members. Although references are frequently made to the Family Violence Act (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1-4), this Act is not a new "crime" (with a unique crime code in the CCH system), only a statute authorizing judges to take certain action following commission of crimes when other elements are met, such as a family relationship.

Table 5 on the next page shows CCH arrests for the family violence statute related to battery, simple battery, simple assault, as well as the Family Violence Act. This data only

⁴ Refers to past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons excluding siblings living or formerly living in the same household. Simple battery (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-23.1 (f)), simple assault (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-20 (a)).

reflects 9,709 arrests and 9,503 arrestees (people) in 2003. From what we know about family violence, these arrest statistics do not reflect the actual volume of domestic related arrests. There is some collateral data to support this conclusion.

Table 5. Known Family Violence Arrests In Georgia Using Criminal History Records, 2000-2003

Year	Simple Assault		Simple Battery		Battery		Family Violence Act		Total	
	Arrests	People	Arrests	People	Arrests	People	Arrests	People	Arrests	People
2000	566	565	8,042	7,801	1,371	1,364	209	215	10,188	9,945
2001	696	693	8,422	8,225	1,515	1,509	237	240	10,890	10,667
2002	787	785	8,191	7,994	1,451	1,440	191	194	10,620	10,413
2003	682	679	7,456	7,265	1,366	1,350	205	209	9,709	9,503

Officers may not be aware of the subtle nuance in Georgia law between assault and battery between strangers and family. The officer must specify the sub-section on the arrest form for GCIC to classify the offense as a domestic crime.⁵ In all likelihood, such charges may only be amended to reflect domestic violence after the solicitor or district attorney reviews the case.

Because Georgia statutes do not have a separate family violence sub-section for every violent act, it is impossible to identify domestic cases, particularly felonies. Battery (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-23.1 (f) (2)) is the only felony that contains a family violence clause. Other felonies, which have a high likelihood of domestic violence but do not have a family violence clause, include aggravated assault, aggravated battery, false imprisonment, stalking and aggravated stalking, terroristic threats, and cruelty to children. For these crimes, domestic violence may have occurred but would be unknown in CCH arrest files.

Georgia's Family Violence Complaints

To supplement Georgia's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics, law enforcement agencies submit incident reports to the GCIC for domestic related incidents.⁶ These forms include the names, sex, date of birth and relationship of the parties involved; the time, place and date of the incident; whether children were involved or whether the act of family violence was committed in the presence of children; the type and extent of alleged abuse; the existence of substance abuse; the number and types of weapons involved; the existence of any prior court orders; the number of complaints involving persons who have filed previous complaints; the type of police action taken; and any other information that may be pertinent. GCIC maintains the domestic family violence database that contains over one-half million incidents by law enforcement agency, county and date. In 2003, Georgia law enforcement agencies submitted forms that reflected approximately 11,000

⁵ In 1995, Georgia enacted legislation requiring law enforcement agencies collect information about Family Violence offenses using a special family violence incident report.

⁶ For assault, it is O.C.G.A. 19-5-20 (d) if committed among family members versus O.C.G.A. 19-5-20.

arrests stemming from a family violence incident, equal to 20% of all reported family violence incidents. This estimate, while probably underreported, is still much higher than the number of CCH arrests classified as domestic violence.

Measuring the Relationship Between POR and Family Violence

To measure the prevalence of family violence, crime rates were computed for each county using GCIC supplemental family violence report data. Such estimates summarize the number of reported family violence incidents per 1,000 county residents, similar to the annual FBI crime rate. In addition to reported family violence, POR filing rates at the county level were computed using the annual number of filed protective orders per 1,000 residents. Table 6 summarizes these rates by overall county population to address whether rates vary significantly across Georgia counties.

Table 6. Average Protective Order Filings and Family Violence Rates by County Size, 2003

	<u>Rural</u> <u>Counties</u>	<u>Transitional</u> <u>Counties</u>	<u>Urban</u> <u>Counties</u>
Family Violence Incidents (Per 1,000 County Residents)	4.09	7.13	3.3
POR Filings (Per 1,000 County Residents)			
Family Violence Orders	1.73	1.75	2.27
Stalking Orders	0.25	0.27	0.88
All Protective Orders	2.06	2.16	3.38

(Rural: < 110,000 population; Transitional: 110,000-500,000 population; Urban: > 500,000 population)

Transitional and rural counties on average have the highest *reported* family violence rates. Transitional counties exhibit twice the rate of urban counties. Such patterns, of course, may reflect dramatic differences in reporting practices in smaller counties compared to their urban counterparts. This is in stark contrast to higher average POR filing rates among urban counties compared to the rural and transitional counties.

The next line of inquiry is to compare survey responses among law enforcement and the judiciary across counties with different rates of family violence and protective order filings. Such analysis might uncover whether respondents utilize and view the POR process and website differently depending on local rates of POR filings and reported family violence. To summarize, the POR and family violence, counties were grouped into four equal sized groups based on POR and family violence rates, ranging from very low rates to very high rates. Twenty-five percent of Georgia's counties fell into each group.

Table 7 shows awareness of the POR website across counties with different POR filing rates. Among non-registered criminal justice professionals, respondents from counties with high rates of POR filings are more likely to know about the POR. There is a completely opposite finding among first-responders. Among high POR rate counties, fewer first-responders were aware of the POR website compared to low rate counties.

Table 7. Awareness Among Non POR Users In Counties Defined By Protective Order Filing Rates

	<u>Group1 Counties</u>	<u>Group2 Counties</u>	<u>Group3 Counties</u>	<u>Group4 Counties</u>
Protective Order Filing Rate Per 1,000 Residents	<=.50	.51-1.57	1.58-3.14	3.15+
Criminal Justice Professional respondents (non-users) that have heard of the POR	41%	45%	37%	53%
First Responder respondents (non-users) that have heard of the POR	55%	48%	67%	41%

Table 8 displays the same data for counties defined by family violence rates. Unlike POR filing rates, it appears that criminal justice professionals from counties with low rates of family violence are more aware of the website than their counterparts in counties with much higher family violence rates. However, among non-registered first-responders, there is little difference in awareness between high and low rate counties.

Table 8. Awareness Among Non POR Users In Counties Defined By Family Violence Report Rates

	<u>Group1 Counties</u>	<u>Group2 Counties</u>	<u>Group3 Counties</u>	<u>Group4 Counties</u>
Family Violence Report Rate Per 1,000 Residents	<=.50	.51-1.57	1.58-3.14	3.15+
Criminal Justice Professional respondents (non-users) that have heard of the POR	53%	38%	46%	40%
First Responder respondents (non-users) that have heard of the POR	62%	35%	54%	58%

Conclusion

Georgia’s automated Protective Order Registry (POR) was created in 2001 under the auspices of Georgia’s Family Violence and Stalking Protective Order Act (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-52). The purpose of the POR is to protect victims and prosecute offenders involved in domestic violence. However, analysis of POR usage for the first 24 months shows that the system has been underutilized by Georgia’s criminal justice agencies. To date, only

110 agencies are registered POR website users (representing 558 people). While over five hundred people are registered users of the site, website traffic analysis shows that the POR is not being uniformly utilized. Over one-third of registered first responders and one-half of registered criminal justice professionals have never logged onto the POR even once. Further analysis shows that of registered users who have logged onto the website, only a small group regularly access the site. The majority of users access the POR infrequently. Results from the mail survey of registered POR users further corroborates this information. Approximately one half of respondents report that they access the site less than 12 times per year.

One possible explanation for the low number of agencies and persons with registered POR access is familiarity with the website. A survey of non-users indicates that approximately one-half of those surveyed had never even heard of the POR. One would expect that the lack of awareness of the POR would be highest in communities with low rates of protective order filings (where domestic violence issues are not as visible). Analysis showed this to be true with non-user criminal justice professionals, but the opposite was found among first responders. Family violence reporting rates were also examined. Interestingly, POR awareness was no different among first responders in counties with low or high rates of family violence. However, among criminal justice professionals, POR awareness was found to be highest among those in counties with low family violence rates.

While this report has clearly demonstrated that the POR is being underutilized in Georgia, the reasons for underutilization are not fully clear. Lack of awareness of the existence of the POR provides part of the picture. However, it does not explain why one-half of respondents who were aware of the POR opted to not register for access. It also does not explain why awareness is not uniformly tied to rates of protective order filings or family violence reporting. While further research is needed to answer such questions, this report does provide state policy makers with a solid link between low utilization of the POR and a lack of awareness about the site across the state.

Toward this end, the report offers several policy or legislative actions to remedy the identified problems.

1. Determine what agency/organization should be responsible for POR website advertising, marketing, and training and provide the necessary funding to ensure statewide awareness program implementation.

2. Given the low level of registration among Georgia Sheriff's offices, consider a statutory revision to allow the Court Clerk's office to make amendments to protective orders.

3. To date, only agencies with a static IP address can access the POR website. Access by smaller agencies who may only have dial-up or a DSL is not permitted. The requirement of a static IP address is a security measure imposed by the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) to prevent unauthorized access to the site. One solution to this problem would be for GTA to allow GCIC to develop a new security procedure for the POR website that would allow access by dynamic IP addresses.

Appendix

Appendix A. Registered First Responder Survey Instrument

**Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Protective Order Registry
Law Enforcement Survey**

Complete the survey, then drop it in the mail in the attached, postage paid envelope.

1. Where do you primarily get information on **active** Protective Orders?

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) Clerk's Office
 Other (please specify) _____

2. Where do you primarily get information on **inactive** Protective Orders?

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) Clerk's Office
 Other (please specify) _____

3. Have you used Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) website? Yes No (if no, skip to question #7)

If yes, how often do you usually access the POR website?

- Daily Weekly Monthly Less than 12 times per year

Approximately when did you last use the POR website (date)? _____

4. Are you able to access the POR website at work through your agency's internet service? Yes No

5. Does your agency have trouble accessing the POR website? Yes No

6. Who accesses the POR website for you? Yourself Admin. Asst. Dispatcher Investigator

Field Officer Supervising Officer (Sgt., Lt., Major) TAC (Terminal Agency Coordinator)

Other (please specify) _____

7. Please check all processes for which the POR website is used at your agency:

- Verify/Read Protective Order on the scene Investigations
 Surveillance Amend a Protective Order
 Determining history of prior Protective Orders (inactive)
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Is there specific information missing from the POR website that would be useful to you? Yes No

If yes, please describe. _____

9. Do you think a Protective Order is an effective way to protect victims who file them? Yes No

If no, why? _____

10. Do you think the Protective Order acquisition process is easy? Yes No

If no, why? _____

11. Do victims express satisfaction with the Protective Order process? Yes No

If no, why? _____

Please use the back of this sheet to write any comments pertaining to Georgia's Protective Order Registry. Thank you for your participation!

Appendix B. Registered Criminal Justice Professional Survey Instrument

**Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Protective Order Registry
Judicial Survey**

Complete the survey, then drop it in the mail in the attached, postage paid envelope.

1. Where do you primarily get information on **active** Protective Orders?

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia's Protective Order Registry Court Clerk's Office
 Other (please specify) _____

2. Where do you primarily get information on **inactive** Temporary Protective Orders (TPOs)?

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) Court Clerk's Office
 Georgia's Automated Protective Order Registry (POR)
 Other (please specify) _____

3. Have you used Georgia's Automated Protective Order Registry (POR) website? Yes No (if no, skip to question #9)

If yes, how often do you usually access the POR website?

- Daily Weekly Monthly Less than 12 times per year

Approximately when did you last use the POR website (date)? _____

4. Are you able to access the POR website at work through your agency's internet service? Yes No

5. Does your agency have trouble accessing the POR website? Yes No

6. Who accesses the POR website for you? Yourself Admin. Asst. Investigator

Other (please specify) _____

7. Please check all processes for which the POR website is used at your agency:

- Prosecutorial decisions Case preparation
 Investigations Determining history of prior protective orders (inactive)
 Sentencing recommendations or decisions
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Is there specific information missing from the POR website that would be useful to you? Yes No

If yes, please describe. _____

9. Do you think a Protective Order is an effective way to protect victims who file them? Yes No

If no, why? _____

10. Do you think the Protective Order acquisition process is easy? Yes No

If no, why? _____

11. Do victims express satisfaction with the Protective Order process? Yes No

If no, why? _____

Please use the back of this sheet to write any comments pertaining to Georgia's Protective Order Registry. Thank you for your participation!

Appendix C. Non-Registered First Responder Survey Instrument

**Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Protective Order Registry
Law Enforcement Survey**

Complete the survey, then drop it in the mail in the attached, postage paid envelope

1. Georgia enacted the Family Violence and Stalking Protective Order Act (O.C.G.A. 19-13-5) creating a 24-hour centralized database for statewide protective orders. It is designed to protect victims by offering law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and the courts near real-time access to orders issued in Georgia courts or by other states. The registry provides the status and conditions of the protective order. Have you heard of the Georgia Protective Order Registry (POR) website? Yes No

2. Does your agency have internet access? Yes No

If yes, please place a check next to the type of internet connection service you have:

Dial-up (analog) DSL T1 Other (please specify) _____

Do you have internet access at your desk/work station? Yes No

3. Where do you primarily get information on **active** Protective Orders?

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) Court Clerk's Office
 Other (please specify) _____

4. Where do you primarily get information on **inactive** Protective Orders?

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant
 Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) Court Clerk's Office
 Other (please specify) _____

5. Have you ever used the Georgia Protective Order Registry website? Yes No

If no, why? _____

6. Are you a registered user of the Protective Order Registry website? Yes No

7. Please place a check next to each of the following processes for which you think Protective Order Registry data would be useful:

Verify/Read Temporary Protective Order on the scene Investigations
 Surveillance Amend a Temporary Protective Order
 Determining history of prior Protective Orders (inactive)
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Do you think a Protective Order is an effective way to protect victims who file them? Yes No

If no, why? _____

9. Do you think the Protective Order acquisition process is easy? Yes No

If no, why? _____

10. Do victims express satisfaction with the Protective Order process? Yes No

If no, why? _____

Please use the back of this sheet to write any comments pertaining to Georgia's Protective Order Registry. Thank you for your participation!

Appendix D. Non-Registered Criminal Justice Professional Survey Instrument

**Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Protective Order Registry
Judicial Survey**

Complete the survey, then drop it in the mail in the attached, postage paid envelope.

1. Georgia enacted the Family Violence and Stalking Protective Order Act (O.C.G.A. 19-13-50) creating a 24-hour centralized database for statewide protective orders. It is designed to protect victims by offering law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and the courts near real-time access to orders issued in Georgia courts or by other states. The registry provides the status and conditions of the protective order. Have you heard of the Georgia Protective Order Registry (POR) website? Yes No

2. Does your agency have internet access? Yes No

If yes, please place a check next to the type of internet connection service you have:

Dial-up (analog) DSL T1 Other (please specify) _____

Do you have internet access at your desk/work station? Yes No

3. Where do you primarily get information on **active** Protective Orders?

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant

Georgia's Protective Order Registry Court Clerk's Office

Other (please specify) _____

4. Where do you primarily get information on **inactive** Protective Orders?

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Petitioner/Complainant

Georgia's Protective Order Registry (POR) Court Clerk's Office

Other (please specify) _____

5. Have you ever used the Georgia Protective Order Registry website? Yes No

If no, why? _____

6. Are you a registered user of the Georgia Protective Order Registry website? Yes No

7. Please check all processes for which you think Protective Order Registry information would be useful:

Prosecutorial decisions Case preparation

Investigations Determining history of prior protective orders (inactive)

Sentencing recommendations or decisions

Other (please specify) _____

8. Do you think a Protective Order is an effective way to protect victims who file them? Yes No

If no, why? _____

9. Do you think the Protective Order acquisition process is easy? Yes No

If no, why? _____

10. Do victims express satisfaction with the Protective Order process? Yes No

If no, why? _____

Please use the back of this sheet to write any comments pertaining to Georgia's Protective Order Registry. Thank you for your participation!