



San Diego Sheriff's Department CSB Field Services Training

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Order for Removal Interview Questions

What is an Order for Removal (OFR)?

When a plaintiff requests a temporary restraining order, they can request an order for removal. Based on their statement, the judge will determine if there is enough cause to order the removal. Once the order for removal is approved, the plaintiff is sent down to the Sheriff's Civil Office to submit the court paperwork.

Why is the Order for Removal Interview Important?

When a deputy is requested to interview the plaintiff, this is one of the most important parts of the process. This is usually the only time the plaintiff will be able to speak freely to a deputy about their abuse or about the things they have witnessed the respondent do. The plaintiff does not know what information to provide the deputy, so it is up to the deputy to ask the right questions.

When an OFR is approved, an attempt to serve has to happen in the same day, so it is important to gather as much information from the beginning as possible. Reiterate to the plaintiff that if the respondent does not open the door, deputies do not kick in the door. If the plaintiff believes the respondent will not open the door, the plaintiff will have to open the door for deputies—**we do not accept keys**. We do not make entry without someone providing access to the location.

Key Questions to Remember:

The questionnaire form is outdated, so it is important to ask more questions than listed.

- Are there any surveillance cameras (i.e. Ring, or others similar)
- Are there any dogs on the property?
- Is there a gate code or lock to get onto the property? Is the property fenced?
- What is the property like -- an apartment complex or house?
- Does respondent own, possess or have access to any firearms or weapons? (Firearms may not be registered to the respondent)
- Has the respondent been placed on a hold for a mental status evaluation (5150 WI)? We do not have any databases to look into whether they have been placed on a 5150 hold. NETRMS only shows persons placed on a 5150 hold by the Sheriff's Department.
- Is the respondent an active gang member?
- Have they been cooperative with law enforcement in the past?
 - Will they run or fight law enforcement?