

## CHAPTER 9

### The Judicial Information System (JIS)

#### I. What is JIS?

Washington’s Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) supports many different technology applications for state court judicial officers and court personnel that are collectively referred to as “JIS” which includes:

- Court-level case management systems:
  - o Juvenile Courts (JCS)
  - o Superior Courts (SC-CMS – Odyssey/Enterprise Justice)
  - o Superior Courts (SCOMIS) – “Legacy system,” to be retired
  - o Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (CLJ-CMS Enterprise Justice)
  - o Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (JIS/DISCIS) – “Legacy system,” to be retired
  - o Appellate Courts (ACORDS/AC-ECMS)
  
- Supporting systems:
  - o Judicial Access Browser System (JABS)
  - o Data Warehouse o Enterprise Data Repository (EDR)
  - o Statewide Data Warehouse

JIS/DISCIS is the primary court management application for maintaining statewide case and person records. Domestic violence orders filed in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction and Superior Courts can be found in the JIS database, by performing a case or person search. Only well-identified persons<sup>1</sup> will be tracked in the JIS. Any protection order, no-contact order or domestic violence restraining order must use well-identified persons.

The JIS database is available to assist the court in avoiding conflicting orders and in crafting parenting plans and visitation orders. Though the JIS/DISCIS database documents certain data elements found on protection orders, this system does not include all of the specific conditions of each order. Therefore, electronic court records should be accessed in JABS to view the specifics of any existing orders. *Please refer to Section III below for additional information.*

Pursuant to [RCW 7.105.230](#), the court is required to consult JIS before ruling on a protection order under Chapter 7.105 RCW or before granting any order under Chapter 7.105 RCW that directs residential placement of any child or restrains or limits a party’s contact with their child.

[RCW 7.105.555](#) requires that JIS or alternative databases be available to each district, municipal, and superior court to prevent the issuance of competing orders. This must include:

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://help.courts.wa.gov/ODY/index.htm#t=Well-Identified\\_Party\\_\(WIP\).htm](https://help.courts.wa.gov/ODY/index.htm#t=Well-Identified_Party_(WIP).htm)

- The names of the parties and cause number for every order of protection issued under Chapter 7.105 RCW;
- Protection orders provided by military and tribal courts;
- Every criminal no-contact order issued under chapters 9A.46 and 10.99 RCW;
- Every dissolution action under chapter 26.09 RCW;
- Every parentage action under chapter 26.26A or 26.26B RCW;
- Every restraining order issued on behalf of an abused child or adult dependent person under chapter 26.44 RCW;
- Every foreign protection order filed under chapter 26.52 RCW; and
- Every Canadian domestic violence protection order filed under chapter 26.55 RCW.

Other helpful resources available on Inside Courts include:

- ODYSSEY Online Manual – [Protection Orders](#)
- [Well-Identified Parties \(WIP\)](#)
- [E2SHB 1320 Resources](#)

## II. Use of Database in Court

Information in the database is generally admissible. However, the court is required to give notice and an opportunity to be heard with regard to any information it intends to consider from the domestic violence database.

“When the court proposes to consider information from the judicial information system or another criminal or civil database, the court shall: Disclose the information to each party present at the hearing; on timely request, provide each party with an opportunity to be heard; and take appropriate measures to alleviate safety concerns of the parties. The court has discretion not to disclose information that the court does not propose to consider.” [RCW 7.105.230\(3\)](#).

Courts should be aware that in reviewing records in the judicial database, such review must be authorized in law, such as by statute, court rule, or case law, in order to not run afoul of [CJC 2.9\(C\)](#), prohibiting judicial officers from investigating facts in pending or impending matters. [Ethics Advisory Opinion 13-07](#) advises courts to follow the procedure outlined in [ER 201\(e\)](#) if the court has prior knowledge of material in judicial databases, and wishes to take judicial notice of such material in the case. In addition, the court should advise the parties to the case of the material the court has reviewed from JABS or other databases.

**PRACTICE NOTE:** The court should be aware that not every protection order may actually be entered into the law enforcement database. Washington State Agencies began entering Protection Orders into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) using the NCIC Protection Order format in September 1999. When there are gaps in the mandatory information fields required for entry into NCIC, the order may not be recorded. Neither the courts nor the victim may be

aware that the order was not entered. The court should make every effort to ensure the required information is included on every order.

Also note that foreign protection orders [those from other states, tribal, or military courts] are not entered into JIS/DISCIS unless they have been filed with a Washington state court.

### **III. Judicial Access Browser System (JABS) Access**

The current version of the database is accessible to judicial officers through the Judicial Access Browser System (JABS) on the Washington State Courts Extranet at <https://jabslink.courts.wa.gov/JabsWeb/pages/logon.jsp>.

The Administrative Office of the Courts also maintains the JABS Online Manual, available at: <https://help.courts.wa.gov/JABS/index.htm#t=Welcome.htm>.

JABS provides judicial officers statewide access to individual case history for persons entered into the JIS, permits judicial officers access to view protection order documents and is more user-friendly than JIS/DISCIS.

Pursuant to RCW 7.105.105(1)(a), protection orders filed in Superior Court must be made available electronically to judicial officers. Pursuant to 7.105.555(3) any protection order document filed in the state must be viewable in the database used by the court. Protection order document images filed in Superior courts are now available in JABS, including document images from AOC systems as well as the local superior court third party document management systems. *Only judicial officers can view these documents.*

For more information see:

[https://help.courts.wa.gov/JABS/index.htm#t=Viewing\\_Protection\\_Order\\_Documents\\_\(Judges\\_Only\).htm](https://help.courts.wa.gov/JABS/index.htm#t=Viewing_Protection_Order_Documents_(Judges_Only).htm)

By January 1, 2026 all protection order document images filed in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction will also be available in JABS. To learn more about Protection Order Document Viewing in JABS, please see the PODS section under [E2SHB 1320 Resources \(wa.gov\)](#), which is available on Inside Courts.