1	Laura Owens		
2	Scottsdale, AZ Tel:		ELECTRONICALLY
3	Tel.		FILED Superior Court of California,
4	Petitioner		County of San Francisco
5			07/23/2025 Clerk of the Court BY: NOE CALIXTO
6			Deputy Clerk
7	CAN ED ANGIGGO COUN	TV CUDEDIOI	COURT
8	SAN FRANCISCO COUN		COURT
9	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA	
10			
11	In Re Matter of:	Case No: FDV-	-18-813693
12	LAURA OWENS,	MOTION TO	PROCEED BY
13	Energy West,		ON AND WAIVE LIVE
14	Petitioner,		PURSUANT TO FAMILY AND CRC 5.113
15	And	CODE § 217 A	MD CRC 3.113
16	MICHAEL MADDACCINI	Hearing Date: Time:	Aug. 1, 2025 9:00 AM
17	MICHAEL MARRACCINI,	Dept.:	405
18	Respondent.		
19			
20	Petitioner Laura Owens respectfully re	quests that this (Court waive the requirement
21	for live testimony at the upcoming evidenti		ŭ
22	Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DV)		
23	California Rules of Court 1.100 and 5.113, a	-	
24	U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.).		2.5
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Petitioner further requests that this motion be SEALED, pursuant to California Rules of Court 2.550 and 2.551, due to the inclusion of confidential medical information and escalating threats from a harassment group known as "Justice for Clayton."

I. INTRODUCTION

The case arises from a <u>stipulated</u> Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) issued by this Court in 2018. After the initial order was violated by Respondent Michael Marraccini, this Court renewed the order in 2020 for a period of five years.

Petitioner now alleges Mr. Marraccini committed multiple additional violations of the renewed order, including traveling from California to Arizona in June 2024 for the purpose of intentionally violating the order; a federal crime in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2262. For that reason, Petitioner asks this Court for relief including extending the order permanently, issuing an order to show cause why Respondent should not be held in criminal contempt, and ordering that Respondent be referred for criminal prosecution.

For the reasons explained below, the requested relief is based on facts which are, or should be, entirely undisputed. Respondent cannot (and presumably will not) deny that in May 2024, he publicly released nearly 2,500 pages of private, confidential text messages between the parties, and that he did so despite never being compelled or permitted to do so by any court order, subpoena, or by any other legal requirement. Further, Respondent cannot deny that in June 2024, he traveled from California to Arizona with the intent to violate this Court's order, and that he actually did violate this Court's order by coming within 300 feet of Petitioner.

Because these facts are either undisputed or not subject to any good faith dispute, there is no factual disagreement for this Court to resolve. Rather, any defense Respondent may raise presents purely a question of law – i.e., does Respondent have a valid <u>legal</u> excuse for his actions?

Because this case presents only legal disputes, not factual disputes, this Court should exercise its discretion and exclude live testimony pursuant to Cal. Fam. Code § 217 and Rule 5.113, Cal. Rules of Court. Good cause exists for this request because the material facts are *not* in controversy (see Cal. R. Ct. 5.113(b)(2)), live testimony is not necessary for the court to assess either side's credibility (*see id.* 5.113(b)(3)) and other facts exist which would make live testimony unnecessary and inequitable.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY & EXISTING ORDER

The background facts of this matter are as follows:

- On August 3, 2018, Respondent stipulated to a two-year Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) issued by the San Francisco Superior Court. Notably, no evidentiary hearing was held because Respondent <u>stipulated to the order.</u>
- On September 11, 2020, the DVRO was renewed for an additional five years following a hearing before the Honorable Judge Sharon Reardon, who found that Petitioner continued to experience a reasonable apprehension of future abuse.
- On July 9, 2025, Petitioner filed a timely request to renew the DVRO again, this time citing not only continued threats and harassment but new, egregious, and federally prosecutable violations.

III. RESPONDENT'S NEW VIOLATION(S) OF THE EXTENDED DVRO

On July 11, 2025, Petitioner filed a request asking this Court to renew the DVRO permanently. This request was supported by declarations from Petitioner and her Arizona counsel.

These declarations explained that in May/June 2024, while this Court's order remained in effect, Respondent violated the order by traveling from California to Arizona and coming within 300 feet of Petitioner in the parking lot of the Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix. Petitioner alleges that by engaging in interstate travel with the intent of violating this Court's order, Respondent committed a federal crime in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2262.

These declarations further explain that Respondent engaged in other, independent violations of this Court's order by posting threatening messages on social media, by releasing private information concerning Respondent and her family, and by engaging in other threatening and harassing conduct which included publicly releasing 2,500 pages of private text messages exchanged between the parties while they were dating in 2016–17 which contained private sexual and medical information. This conduct (which is all undisputed) is *per se* sufficient to support the relief Petitioner seeks.

Indeed, for the reasons explained in *In re Marriage of Nadkarni*, 173 Cal.App.4th 1483, 93 Cal. Rptr. 3d 723 (Cal. App. 2009), Mr. Marraccini's conduct is, as a matter of law, sufficient to grant the requested relief. *Nadkarni* involved an allegation that a former romantic partner violated the Domestic Violence Protection Act (DVPA) (Fam. Code, § 6200 *et seq.*) by, among other things, accessing private emails of his former partner. The trial court initially dismissed the petition, explaining such conduct: "may very well be illegal, but I don't think that it rises to the level of conduct that is amenable to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act." *Nadkarni*, 173 Cal.App.4th at 1493.

The Court of Appeal *reversed*, holding <u>physical</u> abuse and threats are not necessary to support relief under the DVPA. Rather, other types of psychologic threats

such as accessing/releasing private messages are sufficient; "the plain meaning of the phrase 'disturbing the peace of the other party' in section 6320 may be properly understood as conduct that destroys the mental or emotional calm of the other party." *Id* at 1487. The Court concluded with the following summary:

In the present case, we determine that the allegations in Darshana's application and declaration are facially sufficient for a showing of abuse within the meaning of the DVPA. We assume, without deciding the truth of Darshana's allegations, that Datta's conduct included accessing, reading, and publicly disclosing the content of Darshana's confidential e-mails, and that his conduct caused her to suffer 'shock' and 'embarrassment,' In other words, Datta's conduct with respect to Darshana's e-mail account, as stated in her declaration, allegedly caused the destruction of her mental or emotional calm and could, if found to be true, constitute "disturbing the peace of the other party." (§ 6320) Since "disturbing the peace of the other party" is a form of abuse within the meaning of the DVPA, we find that Darshana's application and supporting declaration are facially sufficient

Id. at 1498–99 (emphasis added).

In conclusion, the Court of Appeals observed: "the trial court was <u>not required to allow oral testimony</u> by Darshana's witnesses because the general rule is that '[t]he trial court is empowered to determine motions upon affidavits, <u>and has the discretion to refuse oral testimony."</u> *Id.* at 1499 (emphasis added).

For the same reasons described in *Nadkarni* and California Rule of Court 5.113, this Court should refuse oral testimony and rule based solely on written submissions including declarations/affidavits. This Rule provides in relevant part:

Rule 5.113. Live testimony

(b) Factors

In addition to the rules of evidence, a court must consider the following factors in making a finding of good cause to refuse to receive live testimony under Family Code section 217:

- (2) Whether material facts are in controversy;
- (3) Whether live testimony is necessary for the court to assess the credibility of the parties or other witnesses;
- (4) The right of the parties to question anyone submitting reports or other information to the court;
- (6) Any other factor that is just and equitable.

Based on these standards, good cause exists for the Court to refuse to receive live testimony for multiple reasons.

First, the primary facts supporting relief are (or will be) undisputed. Respondent cannot dispute that he traveled from California to Arizona on June 10, 2024 and that he violated this Court's order by coming within 300 feet of Petitioner. Because that fact is undisputed, there is no need for this Court to receive live testimony with respect to that event. The only relevant issue is whether Respondent has any *legal* defense for his conduct. Live testimony is unnecessary for Respondent to explain his position or legal arguments; he may submit a declaration and written briefing offering any explanation or defense he believes proper.

Second, Respondent has openly admitted that he did *not* travel to Arizona for any legitimate, lawful purpose. Indeed, just days after he violated this Court's order by traveling to Arizona, Mr. Marraccini appeared in a 2 ½ hour interview in which he admitted he knew he was not traveling for the purpose of testifying in court: "I knew I wasn't going to be testifying. Her attorney definitely thought I was going to be testifying." *See* https://youtu.be/nhdseYCE9WU?si=ZM55qOMg_WJnV3Oe&t=5802



Respondent's disregard for this Court's DVRO did not end there. In that same June 19, 2024 interview with content creator Megan Fox, Mr. Marraccini escalated his retaliation by publicly defaming Petitioner, misrepresenting the facts of the DVRO, and disclosing protected private health information.

Among other things, Mr. Marraccini stated:

- "It's [the stipulated DVRO] completely fabricated." (Timestamp: 0:23:08)
- "None of what she said actually happened. It's all fiction." (Timestamp: 0:23:20)
- "There were times where I was definitely frustrated... but I was never emotionally abusive or physically abusive." (Timestamp: 1:01:07)

These statements are not mere opinion. They are deliberate denials of judicially established findings. The San Francisco Superior Court issued the DVRO after reviewing sworn evidence, including a declaration from Karen Ilmberger, a neutral third-party witness who recounted a terrifying incident she witnessed on an international flight: "I remember that Mr. Marraccini was emotionally and verbally abusing Ms. Owens for a long time... He was so menacing that I felt her life was at stake were she to stay with him."

Furthermore, during the same interview, Respondent publicly disclosed Petitioner's sensitive mental health information: "She was threatening to harm herself. That's what we were dealing with." (Timestamp: 0:45:12) This disclosure, made without Petitioner's consent and outside of any legal proceeding, constitutes retaliatory psychological abuse, a prohibited form of conduct under California Family Code § 6320, which defines abuse to include "harassing," "disturbing the peace of the other party," and "releasing confidential information without consent."

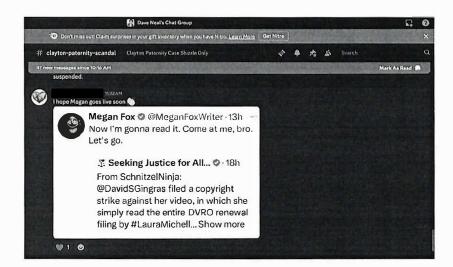
Respondent's two-and-a-half-hour YouTube interview, in which he denied court-validated findings, disclosed Petitioner's mental health history, and mocked her allegations, falls squarely within this prohibited conduct. That the abuse was committed publicly, for the purpose of humiliating Petitioner to a wide audience, provides further good cause for this Court to decline live testimony – because doing so will limit Mr.

Marraccini's ability to further abuse the legal system by harassing and attacking Petitioner.

A third and final reason exists for this Court to refuse live testimony – because Respondent is an active member in a cult-like organization called "Justice for Clayton" or "JFC" which has been ruthlessly harassing and attacking Petitioner, her family, and her attorney, for over two years. Following the filing of Petitioner's paternity case against former Bachelor star Clayton Echard in 2023, "Justice for Clayton" emerged as a group devoted to retaliating against Petitioner and doing everything possible to destroy her. Though the JFC group was formed initially to support Mr. Echard (the Respondent in the Arizona paternity action filed by Petitioner), JFC members have actively inserted themselves into matters unrelated to that case, including this proceeding.

Among other things, the JFC group has done the following:

• Obtained and widely disseminated Petitioner's July 9, 2025 DVRO renewal filing on social media within 24 hours of its submission to the Court, triggering a new wave of targeted harassment and online ridicule against Petitioner.



• Members of the group referred to the Marraccini DVRO as "phony" and falsely cast Respondent as the "victim," despite having no personal knowledge of the underlying facts or incidents that led to the issuance of the original order in 2018—well before the group's formation in 2023.

Respondent has seized on this ignorance and worked exhaustively to frame himself as emotionally fragile and unfairly targeted, using sympathetic narratives to invite public support and cast Petitioner as the aggressor. One such narrative centers on a man he repeatedly described as his "dying stepfather" during the course of the relationship—a claim designed to evoke sympathy and humanize him to the online audience. In truth, this individual was his mother's former boyfriend—not a legal or familial stepfather—and even Respondent once acknowledged the relationship's hollowness, writing that:

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[1] 2017-03-29 19:14:08 (UTC)
Sender: Self (m.marraccini@gmail.com)
Participants: (415) 810-0604 ( (415) 810-0604 ), Self (m.marraccini@gmail.com)
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I"m alright. The funeral was yesterday and my mom was never mentioned once, so I feel bad for her

This selective and misleading framing is emblematic of Respondent's broader strategy of narrative manipulation: presenting himself as a wounded party to distract from a judicial record that does not support that claim. The "Justice for Clayton" group has seized upon these distortions, amplifying them as fact and using them as justification to vilify and harass Petitioner across multiple platforms.

• Organized in-person attendance at Petitioner's Arizona court hearing in June 2024, where more than 50 members showed up and have already begun organizing inperson support for Respondent at the August 1, 2025 hearing in San Francisco.

- JFC operates a network of social media and Internet resources devoted solely to attacking and harassing Petitioner. These pages include a primary Instagram account located at: https://www.instagram.com/justiceforclaytonofficial/, a Twitter account located at: https://x.com/ClaytonsJustice, and various websites including https://www.reddit.com/r/JusticeForClayton/.
 - Shortly after the renewal petition was filed in this matter, JFC's primary Instagram account began positing solicitations for coverage of this matter by local San Francisco news media, as well as inviting members of the general public to attend. These posts <u>falsely</u> state that this Court <u>"is allowing media outlets to broadcast and photograph the hearing."</u>





• Respondent's sister, Stephanie "continues to engage in targeted harassment against Petitioner and her family. Following Respondent's June 2024 interview with content creator Megan Fox, Ms. "publicly applauded her brother, writing: "I'm so grateful that your demeanor, truth, authenticity, and kindness are finally seen and you're no longer silenced by manipulation and fear." This was more than a swipe at Petitioner—it was a brazen misrepresentation of legal reality. Neither the San Francisco Superior Court nor any other court modified the standing DVRO to permit Respondent to speak freely about the protected party. Yet, both Respondent and his sister acted as though the order had been lifted, weaponizing that false narrative to cast Petitioner as a manipulative oppressor and Respondent as a silenced truth-teller. This deliberate distortion not only undermines the authority of the Court but emboldens further harassment by suggesting that court-ordered protections no longer carry weight.

Most recently, in June 2025, Ms. commented on a Reddit thread discussing a credit card lawsuit filed by JPMorgan Chase against Petitioner's elderly parents—who have been struggling financially. Petitioner's father, who is 79 years old, has lived with Parkinson's disease for 24 years and has survived four separate battles with cancer. Despite this, Ms. publicly mocked the situation, writing: "JP Morgan you rock! Get this pathetic criminal family to pay their bills" and "it's getting real for these tools," reflecting a level of cruelty that further underscores the vindictive and harmful nature of the harassment tied to Respondent's support network.

These cumulative actions—coordinated online attacks, public dissemination of confidential filings, personal humiliation of Petitioner and her family, and planned inperson confrontations—create a real and immediate risk of retraumatization and

psychological harm should Petitioner be required to testify live. The protective intent of California's Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) would be completely undermined by forcing a survivor to confront both her abuser and his coordinated support network in a live public forum, especially when there is no legitimate reason for doing so.

V. MEDICAL NECESSITY AND ADA ACCOMMODATION

Petitioner respectfully submits that her medical diagnoses are supported by verified treatment records and clinical assessments from multiple licensed medical providers, including her psychiatrist at Spark Shift Psychiatry, neurology specialists at Barrow Neurological Institute, and her physician at Banner Health. Barrow is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in neurology and brain injury and operates the only known Domestic Violence Brain Injury Program in the United States. Petitioner was formally admitted to this program following the end of her relationship with Respondent.

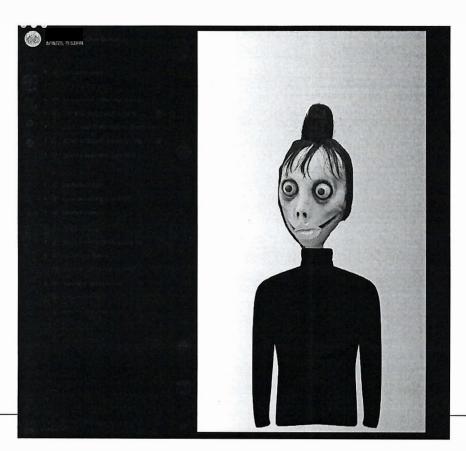
Petitioner's diagnoses include, but are not limited to:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Epilepsy
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Panic Disorder
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)

Most recently – and most urgently – Petitioner was recently diagnosed with the most severe category of Anorexia Nervosa, binge-eating/purging type—the most critical classification under the current diagnostic framework. As of July 17, 2025, she weighs

83.3 pounds, placing her in a state of severe malnourishment and physical risk. This condition is the most life-threatening of any psychiatric condition. It carries heightened susceptibility to cardiac arrhythmia, hypotension, loss of consciousness, organ failure, and significant cognitive impairment, especially under conditions of emotional duress – exactly the conditions she would be subjected to in a live courtroom hearing, particularly one involving her former abuser and a gallery of observers affiliated with a coordinated online harassment group.

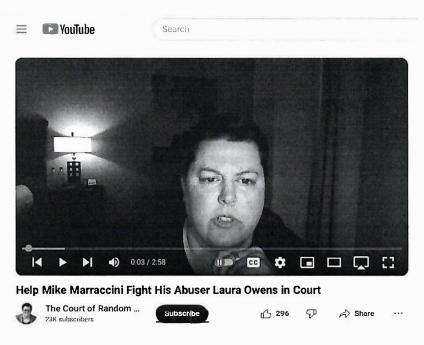
Petitioner has been the repeated target of vicious public ridicule and body-shaming by the online harassment group known as "Justice for Clayton" (JFC), which has openly aligned itself with Respondent and amplified his narrative through coordinated defamation, targeted memes, and monetized outrage. Members of this group have referred to Petitioner as a "horse-faced anorexic," mocked her weight and medical diagnoses, and disseminated dehumanizing content across Discord, YouTube, and Reddit. A widely circulated meme dated June 14, 2025, exemplifies the kind of viral cruelty Petitioner routinely endures:



Among the many JFC affiliates, content creator Lauren Neidigh warrants particular attention—not because she is the most popular or lucrative, but because she is the only individual who formally petitioned this Court for direct media access to the August 1, 2025 evidentiary hearing. Despite lacking any professional journalistic credentials or affiliation, Ms. Neidigh submitted a formal "Media Request to Permit Coverage," which was denied by the Hon. Judge Carolyn Gold on July 11, 2025.

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Within 24 hours of that denial, Ms. Neidigh retaliated by releasing a monetized YouTube video titled "Con Artist Laura Owens Crashes Out & Wants Her Victim Prosecuted," in which she falsely claimed that the original restraining order was "based on completely fabricated information" and referred to Respondent—who has been subject to a valid DVRO since 2018—as "one of [Petitioner's] victims." On July 16, 2025, she escalated her campaign with another video entitled "Help Mike Marraccini Fight His Abuser in Court," in which she again labeled Petitioner as the abuser and openly encouraged her audience to donate to Respondent's GoFundMe legal defense fund.



Although Ms. Neidigh is not the most widely followed or monetized figure profiting from this case, she is part of a much broader online ecosystem of content creators who have built a cottage industry around harassing, misrepresenting, and dehumanizing Petitioner for profit. Collectively, these individuals have released thousands of monetized videos since 2023—mocking Petitioner's medical conditions,

sharing private details of her legal proceedings, and promoting false narratives designed to incite hatred. Ms. Neidigh alone has posted over 150 such videos since May 2024.

Requiring Petitioner to testify in person would only amplify the potential for further exploitation, screen captures, and viral mockery—serving no probative legal function but inflicting profound emotional and medical harm. Petitioner's physical health is fragile, her psychiatric condition acute, and the courtroom environment—particularly one populated by observers affiliated with an online harassment campaign—poses an undeniable threat to her safety and well-being. By contrast, written testimony would provide the Court with the same factual record, without endangering Petitioner or enabling further abuse.

Petitioner anticipates that Respondent may attempt to discredit her medical records by questioning their authenticity. However, any such claim would be entirely speculative and unsupported by evidence. Petitioner is fully prepared to authorize HIPAA-compliant releases and welcomes any lawful effort by Respondent to verify the documentation directly with her licensed medical providers. Absent such action, vague insinuations should carry no weight with the Court.

IX. REQUEST TO SEAL

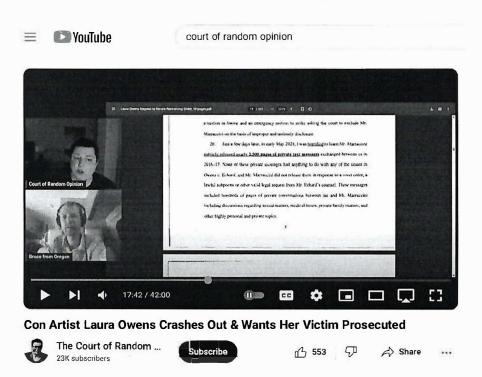
Petitioner respectfully moves to file this motion under seal in accordance with California Rules of Court 2.550 and 2.551. Sealing is necessary to protect highly sensitive medical information and to prevent foreseeable and substantial harm stemming from the public dissemination of these materials.

As outlined above, Petitioner has been subjected to a pattern of coordinated online harassment and targeted exploitation of her court filings. The risk of further public exposure—especially involving the deeply personal medical diagnoses and treatment

details contained herein—is not hypothetical. Prior pleadings have been obtained and weaponized in online forums, triggering renewed waves of harassment, body-shaming, and emotional abuse.

Under Rule 2.550(d), the Court may seal records where:

- A compelling interest supports sealing;
- That interest would be prejudiced by disclosure;
- The proposed sealing is narrowly tailored; and
- No less restrictive means are available to protect the interest.



Petitioner submits that compelling interests—including medical privacy, personal safety, and protection from retaliatory online abuse—warrant sealing this motion pursuant to California Rules of Court 2.550 and 2.551. As this Court is already aware, Petitioner's July 9, 2025 DVRO renewal filing was obtained and disseminated on social media within 24 hours of submission, resulting in a surge of harassment and public

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ridicule. Petitioner therefore respectfully requests that the Court order the motion filed under seal in its entirety.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The relief Petitioner is seeking in this matter does not turn on her credibility. It does not require the Court to assess competing narratives or weigh disputed facts. Respondent has already publicly admitted—on video—that he knowingly traveled across state lines to appear at a court hearing in violation of an active Domestic Violence Restraining Order issued by this Court. He acknowledged under no uncertain terms that he had no intent to testify, and therefore appeared solely for the purpose of intimidating Petitioner—a calculated act that violated both the letter and spirit of the DVRO.

When the restrained party openly admits to conduct that breaches a protective order, the protected party's credibility is no longer material. The violation stands on Respondent's own words and actions. In such a case, requiring live testimony from Petitioner—who suffers from documented neurological and psychological conditions arising in part from Respondent's abuse—would serve no evidentiary purpose. It would only expose her to retraumatization and contradict the protective intent of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The law does not compel survivors to suffer further in order to assert their rights. California Family Code § 217(c) and California Rule of Court 5.113 provide this Court with the authority to accept written declarations when good cause exists—and here, that standard is not only met but surpassed. Respondent's admitted violation, combined with Petitioner's medical vulnerability and the credible threat of continued harassment, constitute compelling grounds for relief.

For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant her motion to proceed by written declaration and waive the requirement for live testimony at the evidentiary hearing.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of July, 2025.

Laura Owens