

## A Legislative Win for Survivors!



## LACLJ Celebrates New Bill to Improve Survivors' Access to Justice

For decades, LACLJ has been advocating to remove barriers low-income survivors face when trying to seek safety through a restraining order.

We are excited to share Governor Newsom recently signed into law AB 2791, which increases access to justice, including restraining order protection, by improving the processes and systems for serving court documents through sheriff's departments.

We saw this disparity not only in LA County, but throughout the state where sheriff's departments each managed their own procedures for processing court documents.

Many Californian survivors of domestic violence were experiencing refusals by sheriff's departments to serve restraining orders, or wet signature requirements, or having to travel to the a physical office to request service (even during a global pandemic!).

Survivors often go through a traumatic court process to try to feel a sense of safety

and protection from an abuser, but while the court may grant a restraining order, it cannot be enforced until it is served.

LACLJ collaborated with partners to advocate for a better system and improve access to justice. AB 2791 removes barriers low-income survivors face when seeking safety by allowing for electronic signatures on all forms, electronic delivery of requests and documents for service, and creates a uniform statewide form to request service of documents.

Most importantly, the bill prohibits sheriff's departments from conducting a substantive review of court documents, which has often led to refusals to serve documents.

Thank you to our partners at Domestic Abuse Center, Sojourn, Jewish Family Services and State Assemblymember Bloom's Office for taking on this fight with us! You can [read the bill here](#) for more details.

*"We are excited and eager to see increased access to justice for survivors and other litigants who rely on the sheriff's department to serve court documents. Without service of court documents, the court proceedings remain at a standstill. AB 2791 addresses many of the key barriers that survivors and other litigants have been facing in seeking assistance from the sheriff's department to serve their restraining orders and other court documents."*

- Amanda Jancu, LACLJ Pro Bono Manager

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Help domestic violence survivors break barriers to accessing justice and safety with your support! You can end violence with your gift during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.