**Procedures to File a Petition to Dissolve the Prohibition Against Victim Contact**

**Pursuant to L. 2020, c. 111**

Directive # 23-20 “Procedures for Petitions to Dissolve the Statutory Prohibition against Victim Contact Pursuant to L. 2020, c. 111” promulgated a process to request dissolution of the prohibition against victim contact when a defendant or juvenile is released from custody before the scheduled release date due to the award of public health emergency credits pursuant to L. 2020, c. 111.

The procedures to file a petition to dissolve the prohibition against victim contact are:

1. A petition may be filed by the defendant/juvenile (parent or guardian), the victim, or counsel on their behalf in the county where the conviction or adjudication occurred.
2. For juvenile matters, all petitions and objections must be filed through the Judiciary Electronic Document Submission (JEDS).
3. For criminal matters, self-represented litigants must file through JEDS, and attorneys must file in eCourts.
4. Court staff will schedule the hearing date to be held within 30 days. Notice of the hearing date will be provided to the petitioner and to the county prosecutor’s office.
5. The county prosecutor’s office will also receive notice of all petitions. If the petition is filed by the defendant/juvenile, the prosecutor’s office will serve the victim with a copy of the petition and notice of the hearing date. If the victim cannot be served, the prosecutor’s office shall immediately inform the court.
6. If the petition is filed by the victim, court staff will provide the petition and notice of the hearing date to the defendant/juvenile at their address as provided by Department of Corrections/Juvenile Justice Commission.
7. An objection to the petition may be filed no later than 10 days prior to the hearing date.
8. The court may require the county prosecutor to provide information and/or appear at the hearing.

Because these records will include information on victims and information in juvenile delinquency records for juvenile matters, all records related to these proceedings shall be deemed confidential pursuant to *R.* 1:38-3.

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|  | **Superior Court of New Jersey**  |
|  | **Law Division – Criminal Part** |
|  | **Chancery Division - Family Part** |
| **State/In the Interest of** | **- Select County -**  |  **County**  |
|  | **Ind./Acc. Number:** |   |
| v. | **Docket Number:** |   |
|  |  | **Petition to Dissolve the Prohibition Against Victim Contact** |
|   |
| Defendant/Juvenile |

I am the (select one) [ ]  Defendant/Juvenile
[ ]  Victim.

I am requesting that the court dissolve the prohibition against victim contact issued to the defendant/juvenile upon early release from a state correctional facility/confinement in a Juvenile Justice Commission facility due to the awarding of Public Health Emergency Credits pursuant to L. 2020, c. 111.

The defendant/juvenile was convicted or adjudicated delinquent and served a custodial sentence for: , and the victim of this crime is , and my relationship to the victim is .

I am requesting to dissolve the prohibition against victim contact, including the circumstances of the conviction or adjudication because:

I certify that all the statements made above are true. I am aware that if any of the statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Date |  | Signature |
|  |  |  |
| Date |  | Parent/Guardian Signature |