

Protection Orders

A Washington State protection order, obtainable from any recognized Washington court, can order a domestic violence abuser to refrain from all contact with the petitioner and if applicable, any children. Additionally, a temporary Washington State protection order is available on an emergency basis, if the court finds that a need exists. According to a federal mandate, protection orders must be enforced in every state. This prevents abusers from going across state lines to abuse, threaten, stalk, or commit other acts of domestic violence.

Protection Order FAQ's

"How do I make changes in the Order or get it dropped?"

At any time before the expiration date on the Order for Protection, you can return to the Court who granted the Order and request that it be modified or even terminated. This involves completing a form that explains your request, along with an appearance before a Judge or Commissioner. In some situations, the Court will be required to set a hearing date before the Order can be modified.

"How long does an Order for Protection last?"

A Temporary Emergency Order for Protection is effective for up to 14 days, but it can be re-issued by the Court. A "full" Protection Order is effective for a set period, usually for one year. It can be made effective for longer than a year.

"When an Order expires, can I get another one?"

Yes, you can. At least 2 weeks before the Order expires, you can go to Court and complete a new Petition, explaining the reasons you need continued protection. The Court's decision to grant or deny your petition may depend on whether you are still being threatened, harmed or in danger and whether or not the Order has been violated.

"What should I do if I lose my Order?"

Go to the Clerk's Office at the Court from which you got your Order and ask for another certified copy. You should have access to a certified copy of your Order for Protection at all times.

"Is an Order for Protection good outside the county where I live?"

Yes, it is. An Order for Protection is enforceable throughout the State of Washington. It is also enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Tribal Lands, and in U.S. Territories.

"What will I need to be prepared for at the full hearing on my request for an Order?"

- ▶ Be on time.
- ▶ Bring all of your paperwork with you.
- ▶ Do not bring your children with you, if it is at all possible.
- ▶ Talk directly to the Judge or Commissioner, and not to the Respondent.
- ▶ Tell the truth.
- ▶ Speak slowly and clearly.
- ▶ Bring police reports and affidavits, if you have them.
- ▶ If you do not have an Advocate or other support person to come with you, and if you feel you are not able to handle this alone, ask the Court if they can refer you to an Advocate.

"What do I need to do after I get an Order for Protection?"

- ▶ Keep a certified copy of the Order with you at all times. This is a copy that you will get from the Court Clerk...it has a special stamp on it and is probably marked "Certified Copy."
- ▶ Give certified copies of the Order to someone who can keep it for you at places you frequent, for example, your work place, your child's day care, or your children's school.
- ▶ **Call 9-1-1** every time a provision of the Order is violated. Tell the Police you have an Order for Protection and then show them your certified copy. If the Respondent has not been served, the Police can serve the paperwork then and there.
- ▶ Keep a notebook in which you can describe in detail any violations of your Order for Protection. Write down the name of the Police officer who responded to your call or was involved. Write down the case or report number if any. Police are required to file reports on their calls.

Source: King County Government