



## What are some limitations of a Protection Order?

- If an order of protection has not been officially served, it is not enforceable. If the order has not been served within 120 days of filing the complaint, the order can be dismissed by the court.
- While an order of protection is an extremely helpful resource, it is important to continue to safety plan in case of an emergency.

## What is an Order of Protection?

- An Order of Protection is a civil court order that is designed to protect a victim of physical abuse from further harm, threats of harm, stalking, and/or harassment.



## What steps should I take if an Order of Protection is violated?

- Contact the police or sheriff's department, depending on whether you live in the city or the county, as soon as a violation occurs.
- Go to the City Attorney's Office or Prosecuting Attorney's Office, depending on whether you live in the city or county, and file a criminal complaint against the abuser.



# Orders of Protection



## How can an Order of Protection help me?

### An Order of Protection can:

- Order an abuser to stop harming you
- Order an abuser to stay away from you and your home, work, school and other places you may go.
- Order an abuser to stop contacting you directly or through someone else.
- Order temporary custody or visitation rights for any children involved.

## What are some ways I can help to get the abuser served with the Order of Protection?

- Provide the address of where your abuser resides.
- Provide the address of your abuser's workplace.
- Inform us if your abuser is currently under supervised probation/parole.
- Inform us if your abuser has any other court cases that may require an appearance & any court dates of which you are aware.

## What is the difference between an Order of Protection, a No Contact Order, and a Restraining Order?

- An **Order of Protection** is a civil case filed by a victim of domestic violence designed to protect a victim from immediate threats of physical harm.
- A **No Contact Order** typically issued by a judge as a condition for bond in a criminal case, and is not something you can file for.
- A **Restraining Order** is typically issued during a divorce case or another domestic relations case to prevent parties from harassing each other.

## Who can file an Order of Protection?

- Spouses or former spouses
- Parents
- Children
- On behalf of a minor
- Persons related by blood or marriage within the fourth degree of consanguinity (besides those already listed, this includes: grandparents, great grandparents, grandchildren, great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and first cousins)
- Persons who presently live with you or have lived with you in the past
- Persons with whom you have or have had a child in common
- Persons whom you are presently dating or have dated in the past

