

What the Protective Order Will Do!

- The protective order will tell the abuser to stay 500 feet from where you live or work.
- The abuser is instructed not to: commit family violence; threaten; threaten through someone else; harass; or stalk the person applying for protection.
- The protective order can order the abuser to go to specialized counseling for abusive behavior.
- The protective order is good for up to 2 years or more.

What the Protective Order Will Not Do!

- A protective order **will not** order the abuser to stay 500 feet from your body!
- A protective order is not a bullet-proof vest or a safety shield. You must remain careful and take precautions for your safety.
- A protective order **does not** interfere with court-ordered visitation or custody determined by another court.

Where Do You Go?

Dallas Co. District Attorney's Office
Family Violence Division at the
Frank Crowley Courthouse
133 N Riverfront Blvd
10th Floor
214-653-3528 for information

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU?

- A current state picture I.D. (Texas driver's license or Texas identification card) OR a person with a current I.D. to identify you.
- A current and complete address where we can serve the person you are filing against. (It is best to serve at work or during daytime hours).
- The address you want to be protected (for example: work, home, school).

Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
First come, first served!
It may take 3 to 4 hours.

Dallas County District Attorney's Office



Protective Order Information

**EVERYONE HAS A
RIGHT TO BE SAFE!**

WHO CAN APPLY?

If you have recently (within the last 90 days) been the victim of:

(a) **physical abuse** (pushing, shoving, slapping, hitting, kicking, choking, or any act intended to physically harm another person) or

(b) the **threat** of imminent danger

AND one of the following relationships applies to you and the person being abusive:

1. **SPOUSE OR EX-SPOUSE (husband or wife)**

2. **RELATIVE (related by blood)**

3. **IN-LAW (related by marriage)**

4. **BIOLOGICAL PARENTS OF THE SAME CHILD**

5. **LIVE-IN BOY/GIRLFRIEND**

6. **EX-LIVE-IN BOY/GIRLFRIEND**

7. **MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD**

8. **DATING RELATIONSHIP**

9. **THIRD PARTY DATING/MARRIAGE**

10. **STALKING**

11. **VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

AND you or the abusive person resides in Dallas County or the most recent incident occurred in Dallas County.

- If there is an **active Divorce pending in Dallas County**, the application for protection will have to be filed in the Court where the Divorce is filed by the **attorney representing you in your Divorce case**.
- If we are prosecuting you for a family violence offense or have prosecuted you for a family violence offense or other offenses in the past; or if you have pending cases in this office, we may not be able to represent you in your application for protection. It would be considered a conflict of interest.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET THERE!

- ◆ Tell the clerk that you are there for a Family Violence Protective Order.
- ◆ The clerk will give you an application to fill out in the victims' waiting room across the hall.
- ◆ Then you will talk to a victim's advocate and give him/her a statement about the abuse. Please try to remember dates and details about abusive incidents in the past.
- ◆ You will receive a date to come to court and a safety plan with resource numbers and information.
- ◆ Your picture will be taken for the file for identification. Pictures of your injuries will be taken if they are still visible.
- ◆ Your papers will be filed and go to the judge for signing within 24 hours and a Temporary Ex-Parte Order will be issued. (It is police enforceable if served).
- ◆ Usually the abusive person will be served within 7 to 14 days, depending on the information you provide. These papers will inform the abuser of the upcoming court date. It is up to him/her whether or not to appear on the day of the hearing. If he/she chooses not to appear, you will be granted the Protective Order by default.
- ◆ On the day of the hearing, you and an Assistant District Attorney will appear before the judge and have a hearing. If the judge decides that sexual assault, stalking, or family violence has occurred and is likely to occur in the future, a Protective Order will be granted.

- ◆ You will probably receive your Protective Order at this point. It is police enforceable. The only way to enforce the Protective Order is to call 911!
- ◆ The entire process usually takes at least 14 days!
- ◆ The Protective Order is active for 2 years or more and is renewable if it has been violated or if the person becomes threatening or physically violent with you again.

Emergency Protective Orders

- The abuser must be in jail at the time of the request for protection.
- The victim, a police officer, a magistrate, or the District Attorney's Office can request an Emergency Protective Order.
- An Emergency Protective Order is Police enforceable immediately after the magistrate signs the order and gives the abuser a copy.
- It contains the same provisions as the two-year Protective Order.
- An Emergency Protective Order can be in effect for up to 91 days.
- Ask your Advocate for assistance if your abuser is in jail when you come to our office.