

A Guide to Protection Orders In the Washington, DC

This guide is a starting point to learn more about Protective Orders (PO). A PO can be a great tool for increasing your safety. And, every case is unique. We encourage you to contact us or another domestic violence agency to discuss your case prior to filing for a PO, if possible. We are here to help you create a plan based on your personal circumstances.

To access JCADA's services, send us a confidential message:



1-877-885-2232



support@jcada.org

Learn more about JCADA's services:



jcada.org/survivor-services

Protection Orders in DC

What is a Protection Order?

A court order in which a judge can require a person to follow certain requirements (respondent), including staying away from, not contacting, or committing any offense against the person requesting the PO (petitioner).

Who is a PO filed against?

- A PO can be filed against a household member or intimate partner.
- A household member is an individual that you share a mutual residence and maintain a close relationship.
- An intimate partner includes:
 - A current spouse or ex-spouse
 - A current domestic partner or former domestic partner
 - An individual in which you have a common child
 - A past sexual partner or offender seeking to be in a sexual relationship

What abuses qualify for a PO?

- Assault
- Threats
- Stalking
- Strangulation
- Revenge porn
- Sexual assault
- Animal Cruelty

What protections can be requested in a PO?

- No harassment, assault, threats, or stalking
- Stay away order - abuser must stay 100 yards away from the petitioner, their home, work, car, the children's school/daycare (if applicable)
- No contact - abuser cannot contact the petitioner by phone, in writing, electronically, or on social media through a third party, and cannot contact abuser directly or indirectly
- Order abuser to provide petitioner with financial support
- Grant petitioner possession of jointly owned property
- Order abuser to receive counseling for alcohol, drugs, domestic violence intervention program, parenting, family violence, and more
- Address custody and visitation, order abuser to vacate the shared residence, and retrieve the petitioner's property



How to File for a PO in DC

Click the link below.

[District of Columbia Court Forms](#)

Download.

Download the form “Petition and Affidavit for Civil Protection Order.”

Complete the form.

Fill out entirety of the form as it relates to your circumstances.
We suggest checking all options for no contact order on the top of page two.

Submit the form.

The completed form can be submitted any of the following ways:

- Email form as an attachment to dvd@dcsc.gov
- Drop off at Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 4550, Washington DC, 20001
- Drop off at 2041 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE, Room 400, Washington DC 20020
- Submit through a [DC SAFE Intake Center](#)

Next steps.

For Temporary Protection Order (TPO):

- After the paperwork is filed, a TPO hearing will be held that day or the next business day. The petitioner will appear before a judge and present evidence of their relationship to the abuser and evidence of the abuse. The abuser does not have to be present for this hearing.
- If granted, the TPO is in place until the final PO hearing, which is held within 14 days of filing.

For the Final Protection Order:

- Both the petitioner and abuser must be present and appear before a judge.
- A judge will rule if a PO is granted, and specifics of the PO will be determined.

We encourage you to contact JCADA or another domestic violence agency to discuss your case.

