

A Guide to Protective Orders In Maryland

This guide is a starting point to learn more about Protective Orders (PO). While a PO can be a great tool for increasing your safety it is important to remember that every case is unique. If possible, we encourage you to contact us or an attorney to discuss your case prior to filing for a PO. We are here to help!

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



1-877-885-2232



support@jcada.org

Learn more about JCADA's services:



jcada.org/survivor-services

Protective Orders in MD

What is a Protective Order (PO)?

A PO is a court order in which a judge requires one person (the respondent) to refrain from doing certain acts against another person (the petitioner). For example, the respondent may be required to stay away from or refrain from contacting the petitioner.

Who is a PO filed against?

- A current or ex-spouse
- A domestic partner of at least ninety days in the past year
- A sexual partner within the past year
- An individual who raped or sexually assaulted (including attempts) within the past six months
- An individual with whom you share a child
- An individual of blood relation or adopted relation (including step-relatives) who have cohabitated for at least ninety days in the past year

What qualifies for a PO?

- Stalking
- An act that instilled fear of immediate bodily harm or caused bodily harm
- Rape or sexual assault (including attempts of rape or sexual assault)
- False imprisonment - interfering with one's ability to leave and/or get to safety
- Revenge porn - non-consensual sharing of intimate images

What protections can be requested in a PO?

- Prohibit acts of abuse;
- Prohibit contact with the petitioner and family/household members;
- Order the respondent to stay away from your home/school/place of employment
- Grant the petitioner possession of the home/property;
- Order the respondent to participate in treatment programs;
- Grant temporary custody or visitation of shared child(ren);
- Grant temporary child support or emergency family maintenance
- Grant possession of pets.



How to File for a PO in MD

Download and complete both forms below

[Petition for Protection from Domestic Violence, CC-DC-DV-001](#)
[Addendum, Description of Respondent, CC-DC-DV-001A](#)

Submit the forms

- Forms above can be completed and submitted during business hours at a [District or Circuit Courthouse](#).
- Forms can be completed and submitted at 24/7 at a [Commissioner's Office](#).

Types of POs

Interim Protective Order (Only if forms are submitted outside of court house hours at a Commissioner's Office):

- Only go to the commissioner's office if you need to file an emergency order when the courts are closed.
 - You will fill out the petition for an Interim PO, and immediately appear before a commissioner to explain your reasons for seeking a PO.
- If granted, an Interim PO will be issued and lasts approximately two days. The court papers will include a scheduled date for the Temporary Protective Order (TPO) hearing.
- An interim PO is **not** required in order to get a TPO.

Temporary Protective Order (TPO):

- A TPO can be filed in person at the courthouse during business hours.
- You will fill out the TPO petition and an immediate hearing will be held.
- The respondent does not have to be present at this hearing.
- If granted, the TPO protections will be in place until the date of the Final Protective Order hearing.

Final Protective Order (PO):

- Both the petitioner and the respondent must be present in court for the Final PO hearing.
- Both parties will be asked to describe what happened.
- A judge will rule if a final PO is granted, and the specifics of the PO will be determined and granted for up to 1 year.

We encourage you to contact JCADA or an attorney to discuss the details of your specific case.

