

# A Guide to Protection Orders In Maryland

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 MD

## 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 current spouse 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 in which you have a common 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 abuses qualify for a PO?

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

## What protections can be requested in a PO?

Temporary Protective Order (TPO) can include:

- No harassment, assault, threats, or stalking
- No contact - abuser cannot contact the petitioner by any means
- Stay away order - abuser must stay away from the petitioner, their home, work, or school
- Leave the home (if married OR if petitioner's name is on the lease or deed)
- Determine child custody, possession of pet, and possession of firearms

Final Protection Order can include, for up to a year, the above guidelines of the TPO, and:

- Grant possession of a jointly owned vehicle (if petitioner's name is on the title)
- Order abuser to receive counseling for substance use or domestic violence intervention program
- Determine a temporary child access or visitation schedule
- Order abuser to provide petitioner with financial support (if married or if petitioner has custody of shared children)



# 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](#).

## Next steps.

If forms are submitted at a Commissioner's Office:

- An immediate hearing will be held when forms are filed.
- A judge will determine that the relationship between the petitioner and the respondent qualifies for a PO and the acts experiences qualify as abuse under a PO.
- If granted, an interim PO will be granted and lasts about two days. Papers will include a date for a hearing for a Temporary Protective Order (TPO).

At the TPO hearing:

- The respondent will not be present at this hearing.
- If granted a TPO, protections will be in place until the date of the Final Protection Order.

Final Protection Order:

- Both the petitioner and abuser must be present and appear before a judge.
- Petitioner will present evidence of the relationship with the respondent and evidence of abuse to prove it qualifies for a PO.
- 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.

