

What is Full Faith and Credit?

Full faith and credit is a provision of the Violence Against Women Act that indicates that valid protective orders must be enforced throughout the country regardless of where they were issued. This includes protective orders that were issued in:

- All 50 states
- Indian Tribal Lands
- District of Columbia
- U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam

Make sure to contact the local authorities in any community you move to. In order to register your protective order there and find out the requirements for the order to be valid.

Is the Abuser Allowed to Have a Gun?

No! The Federal Brandy Law prohibits individuals who are subject to a domestic violence restraining order, and those who have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from possessing, carrying, using or purchasing a firearm.



WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP

Police

In an emergency, dial 911

Metropolitan Police Department:

1st District: **(202) 698-0555**

1DSubstation: **(202) 698-0068**

2nd District: **(202) 715-7300**

3rd District: **(202) 673-6815**

4th District: **(202) 715-7400**

4DSubstation: **(202) 576-8222**

5th District: **(202) 698-0150**

6th District: **(202) 698-0880**

6DSubstation: **(202) 698-2088**

7th District: **(202) 698-1500**

National

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

Local

Domestic Violence Intake Center

DC Superior Court

500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 4550

Washington, DC

NW: **(202) 879-0152**

2041 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, SE, Room 400

Washington, DC 20020

(202) 879-1500

Online: <https://www.probono.net/dccourts/>

24-hour shelters, Hotlines and Counseling:

House of Ruth: **(202) 667-7001** x 217

My Sister's Place: **(202) 529-5991**

Financial Assistance

Crime Victims Compensation Program:

(202) 879-4216

Legal Assistance

American University: **(202) 274-4140**

Legan Aid Society: **(202) 628-1161**

www.legalaiddc.org

Bread for the City: **(202) 265-2400**

SAFE: **(202) 879-7857**



Domestic Violence Unit

300 Indiana Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Office: 202-727-5932 | Fax: 202-727-6491

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/victimassistance>

Civil Protection Orders

What is a Civil Protection Order?

How do I file one?

What are the laws?



A guide to getting educated and getting help.



WHAT IS A CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER?

A Civil Protection Order (CPO) is a court order issued by a judge, lasting up to one year, designed to provide long-term protection from an abuser. The CPO orders your abuser to stop abusing and/or threatening you, to stay away from you, not to contact you in any way, and provides other forms of relief that you need to be safe.

WHO CAN GET A CPO?

You can get a CPO if you have been physically abused, threatened, or stalked by a person to whom you are related by blood, adoption, marriage, or with whom you have a child in common, share or have shared the same home, or have or previously had a dating relationship (it does not need to be a sexual relationship). You must live in DC or at least one incident must have occurred in DC to seek protection from the DC Court. However, the order will protect you in all states.

When Do I File for a CPO?

You should file for a Civil Protection Order as soon as possible after the abuse occurs. You can file for a CPO up to two years after the incident. However, a delay in filing may make the judge less likely to believe you. The process of filing for a CPO can take several hours, so please plan accordingly. Make sure you leave plenty of time to arrive at the court before it closes at 4 pm.

HOW DO I GET A CPO?

You may apply for a CPO online or in person. To complete forms online go to <https://www.probono.net/dccourts/> and follow the instructions.

If you wish to file in person, go to the Domestic Violence Intake Center at either of the following locations:

DC Superior Court

500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 4550
Washington, DC
(202) 879-0152

2041 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, SE, Room 400
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 879-1500

Both centers are open from 8:30 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday.

Be prepared to provide the following information when filing a CPO/TPO/ETPO.

- The work and home address and phone number of the individual you are filing against. Include a physical description of the abuser and any aliases.
- Any evidence of abuse to you or your children that you have collected, including pictures, letters, phone messages, damaged clothing, etc.
- Your address and any phone numbers where you can be reached by an advocate.

It may be possible to obtain an Emergency Temporary Protection Order (ETPO), which is good until up to 5 days. If you are in an emergency situation and wish to file for an ETPO when the intake centers are not open, call the police and they will put you in contact with a SAFE advocate who will explain the process of obtaining an ETPO.

WHAT HAPPENS IF HE/SHE VIOLATES THE CPO?

In order to enforce your CPO, contact the police and provide any evidence that proves the respondent violated the order. The more evidence of violation you have, the more likely the respondent will be convicted of contempt. Here are some ways to document contact:

- **Write it down.** Keep a journal or a log; it is sometimes difficult to remember.
- **Save evidence.** Voicemail messages, letters/envelopes, cellular phone bills, hard copies of emails, and pictures are all forms of evidence.
- **Get witness statements.** Get statements from anyone who was present when the violation occurred.
- **Keep a copy of the CPO with you.**
- **Document Abuse.** Go directly to the hospital after an assault, tell hospital staff that you have a protection order, take pictures of physical damage (bruises, cuts, etc.).

