

If I am a Petitioner seeking a Protective Order, what can the court do?

It can order the Respondent to:

- Refrain from abusing or threatening to abuse any person eligible for relief.
- Refrain from contacting, attempting to contact or harassing any person eligible for relief.
- Vacate the home.
- Stay away from the place of employment, school or residence of a person eligible for relief.
- Pay filing fees and costs.
- Surrender firearms.

The court can also do the following:

- Establish temporary visitation with a minor child.
- Award emergency family maintenance.

- Award temporary use and possession of a residence, vehicle or pet.
- Order Respondent or person eligible for relief to counseling or a domestic violence program.

Does it cost anything to file for a Protective Order?

No. There is no filing fee.

How long does a protective order last?

- A **temporary** protective order lasts for 7 days.
- A **final** protective order can last for up to one year, but it can be ordered for up to two years under certain circumstances.
- A **permanent** protective order can also be ordered under very specific circumstances.



If a Protective Order is entered and I am the Respondent, what should I do?

- Obey all terms of the court order.
- Attend all court hearings.
- Be ready to show the court at a later hearing that you are doing everything that the court ordered.

If a Protective Order is denied, dismissed or I consented to it, can that information be removed from public view?

Yes. Generally if a petition is denied, dismissed or entered by consent, either party may file a written request to shield all court records relating to the proceeding, although some exceptions apply. Also, the request may not be filed within three (3) years after the denial, dismissal or consent UNLESS the requesting party files a signed general waiver and release of all related tort claims with the request for shielding.