



Since 1958
LEGAL AID CENTER
of Southern Nevada

PROTECTION ORDERS

WHAT IS A PROTECTION ORDER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

A domestic violence protection order is a court order that requires an abuser to stay away from you, your home, your work, and possibly your children and their schools. It can also require the abuser to move out of a shared home and may give you temporary custody of any children. Long-term orders may also require the abuser to pay you support and give up any firearms.

You can apply for a domestic violence protection order against a spouse, significant other, an ex, or a close family member who has committed domestic violence on you or your children. It does not apply to adult siblings or cousins.

There are other kinds of protection orders for nonfamily members, distant family members, or for other kinds of abuse, such as stalking and harassment. The information here is only for domestic violence protection orders.

SHOULD I GET A PROTECTION ORDER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Only you can know if this is the best thing to do. Getting a protection order may mean you need to think about where you will live, how you will pay bills, how to handle childcare, etc. A protection order alone does not necessarily guarantee your safety.

You may want to talk to a domestic violence advocate first about your options. An advocate can help you think about a safety plan so you are prepared before, during, and after a protection order is in place.

You can find a list of agencies that can assist you for free on the back of this brochure.

DO I NEED A LAWYER TO GET A PROTECTION ORDER?

No. Lawyers are helpful, but you can get a protection order without one. Victims of domestic violence may contact our office to apply for legal representation for protection orders, divorce, and custody cases.

HOW LONG DOES A PROTECTION ORDER LAST?

When you apply, the judge can give you a temporary protection order (“TPO”) that lasts up to 45 days. This is done without notifying the other person first.

If you want a longer-term protection order, you can request an extended order in your initial application or at any point before the TPO expires. The judge will set a hearing where you and the adverse party will go to court and explain your sides. At the hearing, the judge will decide whether to extend the order up to 2 years.

You can request a free lawyer and/or a domestic violence advocate to attend the extension hearing with you. Contact Legal Aid Center or the Self-Help Center for more information. If you do not show up to the hearing to extend the order, the judge will usually dissolve the order.

HOW DO I GET A PROTECTION ORDER?

There are different ways to get a protection order against domestic violence. All options are free.

- **Emergency Phone Orders:** If the suspect was arrested and is in custody for domestic violence, you can request an emergency temporary protection order by phone. Call SafeNest at 702-646-4981 as soon as possible after the arrest (available 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week).
- **Online:** You may apply online by using a guided interview that will ask you for the required information and complete the forms for you based on your answers. You can efile the completed forms directly through the program. Visit www.lacsn.org/efile and choose the “Protection Orders” option to use this free service. You can also find the forms online at www.familylawselfhelpcenter.org/dv if you prefer to fill them out yourself without the assistance of the guided interview.
- **At SafeNest:** You can apply in person at the SafeNest office with the help of an advocate. They are at 3900 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107. Call ahead to make sure someone will be available to assist you.
- **At Family Court:** You can apply in person at the Self-Help Center/Protection Order office. The office is open M-F from 8-4, and is located at 601 North Pecos Rd.

After filing your forms, you will have a telephone hearing with a judge and get a decision the same day or the next business day.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GET MY ORDER?

The court will arrange for the Sheriff to serve the order on the adverse party as long as you can provide an address for them in Clark County. If the adverse party lives somewhere else (or if you do not know their address), you will be responsible for having a process server serve the papers.

The order is not enforceable until the adverse party is served. It is important to make sure the adverse party is served as quickly as possible.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY ORDER?

Keep a copy of your protection order with you at all times. Give copies to your employer, your school, your landlord, and (if they are included in the order) your children's school, daycare center, or babysitter.

WHAT IF THE ADVERSE PARTY VIOLATES THE ORDER?

Violating a protection order is a crime. Call 911 immediately. The police can arrest the adverse party and they can face criminal charges.

You can also file a voluntary police report at your local police station concerning the violation, and/or you can file for civil contempt at the Family Court Self-Help Center / Protection Order Office.

Keep a written record of any contact, harassment, or abuse by the adverse party, including the date and time of the incidents and the names of witnesses. Save voicemails, text messages, emails or any other evidence that shows a violation of the order. Get medical treatment for injuries right away and keep copies of the records.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MOVE?

Your protection order can be enforced in any state, territory, or Indian reservation in the United States. If you move out of Nevada, contact the police, sheriff, or other law enforcement agency in your new area. Give them a certified copy of your order, and register the order in the appropriate court of that state.

You can also contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233/SAFE) to get referrals to a domestic violence advocate in your new community.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

SafeNest

3900 Meadows Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89107
702-646-4981 (hotline)
702-877-0133 (main office)
safenest.org

S.A.F.E. House

702-564-3227 (hotline)
702-451-4203
(counseling/advocacy)
safehousenv.org

Signs of Hope

702-366-1640 (hotline)
sohlv.org

Gender Justice Nevada

855-425-QAVP (7287)
genderjusticenv.org

Family Law Self-Help Center/Protection Order Office

601 N. Pecos
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Monday – Friday 8am - 4pm
familylawselfhelpcenter.org/dv



Providing civil legal advice and representation
to low-income Nevadans

725 E. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
702-386-1070 • 800-522-1070
TDD 702-386-1059
www.lacsn.org
Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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