

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

Case # _____

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM NOTIFICATION

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, you can ask the city or county prosecuting attorney to file a criminal complaint.

You also have the right to file a petition in superior, district, or municipal court requesting an order for protection from domestic abuse which could include any of the following:

- (a) An order restraining your abuser from further acts of abuse;
- (b) An order directing your abuser to leave your household;
- (c) An order preventing your abuser from entering your residence, school, business, or place of employment;
- (d) An order awarding you or the other parent custody of or visitation with your minor child or children; and (e) An order restraining your abuser from molesting or interfering with minor children in your custody. The forms you need to obtain a protection order are available in any municipal, district, or superior court.

The forms you need to obtain an Order for Protection are available at:

Superior Court Clerk's Office
First Floor, Courthouse
1200 Franklin Street,
Vancouver, Washington 98668

AN ORDER FOR PROTECTION IS IMPORTANT!

It lets the Respondent and the Police know that you are serious in your determination to be safe. **Violation of an Order is a crime.** If the Respondent threatens or harms you, or comes to a place the Court has ordered him or her to stay away from, call **9-1-1**.

WHAT DOES AN ORDER FOR PROTECTION DO?

A Protection Order may allow law enforcement officers to arrest the Respondent if:

- Respondent causes you or your minor children physical or sexual harm.
- Respondent molests, harasses or threatens you or your children.
- Respondent interferes with child custody.
- Respondent takes your children out of state.

An Order may remove the Respondent from the family home. An Order **CANNOT**:

- Set or order child support
- Assign property to either party
- Establish permanent child custody
- Grant permanent use of the family home

The issues must be decided in separate court actions. Violation of the terms of the Order for Protection may result in the filing of criminal charges against the Respondent.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The forms are free. Ask for the forms at the Superior Court Clerk's Office, first floor of the Clark County Courthouse, 1200 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington 98668. Check with the court for the current filing fee.

For Assistance and filing information, call:
Victim Witness Assistance: (360) 487-8530 or YWCA (360) 696-0167.

The Respondent must be served with copies of the legal papers. The Sheriff (or anyone who is at least 18) must personally give (serve) a copy of the Protection Order to the Respondent. You cannot serve the order yourself.

You may change or end a Temporary or Permanent protection Order if you go back to the Court. Until a Judge modifies (changes) or terminates (ends) your order, it will be enforced.

HOW DO YOU GET A PROTECTION ORDER IN CLARK COUNTY?

STEP ONE – GET PROTECTION ORDER FORMS

You may obtain free forms from the Superior Court Clerk in the Courthouse. Business hours are 8:00 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is 397-2292.

STEP TWO – COMPLETE THE FORMS – Turn into Court Clerk by 11 a.m. on any week day.

STEP THREE – JUDGE’S SIGNATURE

Return to the Court Clerk’s Office at 1 p.m. for court date and Judge assignment. You will be told which Judge is signing Temporary Orders that day. File the signed forms with the Court Clerk.

STEP FOUR – RESPONDENT NOTIFIED

The Respondent must be served with a copy of the Protection Order and a notice of hearing.

STEP FIVE – HEARING

Protection Order hearings are on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Your hearing will be about two weeks from the time the Judge signs the Temporary Order. PLEASE READ YOUR COURT PAPERS FOR THE EXACT DATE, TIME AND DEPARTMENT FOR YOUR HEARING.

NOTE: Criminal charges resulting from an arrest for Domestic Violence are heard in District Court. Victim Witness (360-487-8545) has information on the criminal process.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

If you are the victim of domestic violence you have a right to legal protection. Because of the different situations victims face, criminal prosecution is not always the answer...SOMETIMES IT IS NOT ENOUGH. For this reason, Washington State created a civil action that victims can use. It is known as the Domestic Violence Protection Order.

WHO CAN BE PROTECTED?

If you or your children are the victims of physical or sexual abuse, or threatened abuse, you can be protected under the Domestic Violence Protection Act. This applies if you are related to the abuser as a family member, are or were married, have ever lived together or have a child together.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Go to the Superior Court Clerk’s Office to obtain a packet of forms necessary to file for a Protection Order. For help completing the forms, please call the YWCA at 696-0167.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

You fill out forms that ask (petition) the Court for a Temporary Order of Protection. In the forms the victim is called the “Petitioner” and the abuser is called the “Respondent”. The forms ask for information such as the date of birth of the Respondent and a place to serve the Respondent with legal papers. The Judge reads the information on the papers and signs the Order if appropriate. The Court Clerk files the approved papers and gives you a certified copy.

YOU WILL NEED TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THE RESPONDENT SERVED A COPY OF THE ORDER.

Obtaining an order takes two steps:

- A temporary Order for Protection is issued immediately at the time the Judge signs the forms. You will have protection until a Court hearing is held in about two weeks.
- In about two weeks, a full Order for Protection – lasting for one year – may be issued at a Court hearing. This would be after the Respondent was served with the Temporary Order and notice of the Court hearing. You must attend this hearing.

PLEASE ARRANGE FOR CHILDCARE. THE PROCESS CAN TAKE SEVERAL HOURS.

911	EMERGENCY (police, fire, ambulance)	695-5313	Volunteer Lawyer Program
696-9560	Crisis Hot Line (24 Hr. Clark County)	487-8530	Clark County Prosecuting Attorney/DV
834-5890	(24 Hour East County)	397-2008	Victim/Witness Unit
687-7126	Parent Trust of WA – (support group)	397-6002	Child Abuse Intervention Center
696-0167	Sexual Assault Hotline – 24 Hour	696-0167	Protection Order Assistance / YWCA
695-0501	Safe Choice (Women’s Emergency Housing (24 Hours)	397-2292	Superior Court Clerk – Clark County
		397-2424	District Court Clerk – Clark County
993-7901	Children’s Protective Services	694-8899	Clark County Information & Referral Service
1-877-846-3492	www.Vinelink.com for Notification of Offender Release from jail/prison	1-800-562-6025	WA State 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline
397-2211	Clark County Jail		

The Clark County YWCA (696-0167) can provide assistance to victims of Domestic Violence with PETS.

For Notification of when the offender is released from jail, please see the Vinelink website and phone number listed above. This is a FREE service for victims.