

A Guide to Protective Orders

A protective order is a civil legal remedy for individuals experiencing acts and/or threats of violence. Protective orders are designed to prevent future violence or threats and can also provide a wide range of options to help protect you and/or your family. You can request one even if criminal charges haven't been filed.

If you are seeking a protective order, you will be referred to as the “petitioner” and the person you are seeking protection from will be referred to as the “respondent”. There are no fees associated with petitioning for a Protective Order.

All Orders may possibly state:

- No contact from the respondent
- No further acts of violence, force or threat; and
- Others conditions the court deems necessary to protect you and/or your family members.

Three types of Protective Orders:

- **Emergency Protective Orders**

This order can be requested by a law enforcement officer. If you are working with a police officer or detective, you can request they assist you in obtaining an emergency protective order. This order can only be issued by a Magistrate or a Judge and lasts only a short time (up to 72 hours or until court meets.) A victim of abuse can make an emergency request at the magistrate's office even if an arrest hasn't happened. The magistrate's office is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The location and phone numbers of Magistrates Offices, by city, are on the back of this form. In order to petition for an EPO, you must be able to provide the name and the address of the person you would like to be protected from. If you are unable to provide this information, please speak with an advocate for further safety planning.

- **Preliminary Protective Orders**

This order is issued only by a judge when danger for further abuse exists but there isn't enough time for a full hearing with both parties. A preliminary Protective Order generally only lasts 15 days. A Preliminary Order can be extended if the abuser/respondent can't be served. It is not required that you obtain an EPO prior to petitioning for a Preliminary Order. You have the right to go directly into court during court business hours, either where you live or where the most recent abuse occurred, and petition the court. Court locations and hours are listed on the back of this form.

- **Permanent Protective Orders**

An order than can be issued for up to two years. These orders are issued if there is enough evidence of an act or threat of violence and both parties are present at court, then a judge decides whether or not to issue an order. Permanent protective orders can also be extended for an additional two years if the petitioner requests such an extension and a judge finds there is a need for extended protection. There is no limit on the number of extensions that can be granted.

You may seek an Emergency Protective Order at the Magistrates Office, regardless of relationship between you and the person you are seeking protection against. If you are seeking a Preliminary Protective Order, and the person you are seeking protection from is considered a family or household member, or you or the person you are seeking protective from is a juvenile, you may petition the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

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If you are seeking protection from someone who is not considered a family or household member, you may petition the General District Court. You must have the respondents' name and address in order to petition. If you do not, please contact an advocate for further safety planning.

COURT CONTACT INFORMATION BY CITY

If you are petitioning the court, plan to arrive prior to 10:00 am to avoid cut-off times.

Norfolk

Magistrates Office: 150 St. Pauls Blvd. This is also where General District & Circuit Courts are held. The Magistrates Office can be contacted at: 757-664-4799, and is open 24 hrs /7 days a week.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: 800 East City Hall Ave. Court hours are 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday Through Friday. The court clerk's office may be contacted at: (757) 664-7340

General District Court: 150 St. Pauls Blvd. Court hours are 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday Through Friday. The court clerk's office may be contacted at: (757) 664-4913

Portsmouth

Magistrates Office: 711 Crawford Street. Located in the basement of the Portsmouth Police Department. The Magistrates Office can be contacted at: 757-393-8648, and is open 24 hrs /7 days a week.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: 1345 Court Street, Suite 103. Clerk's office hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Report to the Court Services Unit to begin the petitioning process. The Court services Unit may be reached at 757-393-8571.

General District Court: 1345 Court Street, Suite 104. . Clerk's office hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The clerk's office may be contacted at 757-393-8624.

Virginia Beach

Magistrates Office: 2501 James Madison Boulevard, Building #7. Located in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. The Magistrates office can be contacted at: 757-385-4724, and is open 24 hrs /7 days a week.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: 2425 Nimmo Parkway, Building 10, Judicial Complex 10A. Located within the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. Court hours are 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office may be contacted at: 757 385-4391

General District Court: 2425 Nimmo Parkway, Building 10, Judicial Complex 10A. Located within the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. Court hours are 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office may be contacted at: 757-385-8375.

Chesapeake

Magistrates Office: 400 A Albermarle Drive. Use the side entrance of the Police Department Building, located between the jail and PD. The Magistrates office can be contacted at: 757-382-6534, and is open 24 hrs /7 days a week.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: 301 Albemarle Drive. Located in the Chesapeake Civic Center. Court hours are 8:00 am- 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office can be contacted at 757-382-8100.

General District Court: 307 Albemarle Drive. Located in the Chesapeake Civic Center. Court hours are 8:00 am through 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office can be reached at 757-382-3143.

Suffolk

Magistrates Office: 2402 Godwin Boulevard. The Magistrates office can be reached at 757-514-4300.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court: 150 North Main Street. Court hours are 8:00am-4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office can be reached at 757-514-7790

General District Court: 150 North Main Street. Court hours are 8:00am-4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The clerk's office can be reached at 757-514-4822.

Source: Virginia Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Action Alliance. *'Protective Orders in Virginia'*, 2011.

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A MISSION**

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