

HOW TO OBTAIN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER (“CPO”)

FORMS TO FILL OUT FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CPO

To obtain a CPO, you need the following documents. You can get all of these documents from the clerk of court’s office:

1. Petition for Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order Form 10.01-D.
2. Domestic Violence *Ex Parte* Civil Protection Order Form 10.01-H.
3. If you are requesting temporary custody of a child, Information for Parenting Proceeding Affidavit Form 10.01-F.
4. If you request financial support, you might need to fill out additional forms that the clerk of court’s office will provide you.

Complete the Petition for a CPO form. Complete additional forms if applicable. Take these documents to the clerk of court’s office.

FILING THE PETITION FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CPO FORM

Present your completed forms to the filing window/counter of the clerk of court’s office for filing. Do **NOT** file the *Ex Parte* CPO form at this time.

A clerk of court’s office employee helps you file your documents. You should know that neither the clerk of courts nor other court employees can provide you with legal advice.

There is **NO FEE** for filing the Petition for a CPO form.

Ask a clerk of court’s office employee or your local domestic violence assistance group about your local court procedures.

VICTIM ADVOCATE

Ohio law permits you to have a victim advocate with you at all times in court during protection order proceedings. Victim advocate means a person who provides support and assistance for a victim of an offense during court proceedings. Contact your local victim assistance program, local domestic violence program, or the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, 800-934-9840, for advocate information.

ATTENDING THE *EX PARTE* COURT HEARING

You must appear in front of a judge or magistrate for the *ex parte* hearing. The judge or magistrate listens to your testimony.

You should tell the judge or magistrate what the Respondent did to make you fear that you or a family member may be in danger. Tell the judge or magistrate if the Respondent injured you, attempted to injure you, or threatened you.

Tell the judge or magistrate what you would like the court to do to help keep you and other family members safe and to protect the children. For example, you might ask the judge or magistrate to:

1. Order the Respondent to stay away from you;
2. Order the Respondent to be removed from your home;
3. Order the Respondent to get counseling;
4. Award you custody of any children;
5. Order the Respondent to have visitation only under conditions that will keep you and the children safe;
6. Order the Respondent to pay you child support and/or spousal support (alimony);
7. Order the Respondent to be prohibited from having any weapons;
8. Award you possession of a car for your use;
9. Award you possession of your personal property and the children’s personal property.

If the judge or magistrate determines that you or your family or household members are in danger of domestic violence, the judge or magistrate signs an *Ex Parte* CPO at the hearing. The judge or magistrate may sign your form or prepare a form.

The judge or magistrate then sets a second hearing (called a “full hearing”) within 7 or 10 business days to give the Respondent a chance to be heard. You must appear at the full hearing. Some issues, such as support, may be postponed until this second hearing.

Take the signed *Ex Parte* CPO to the clerk of court’s office and have it filed. Tell the clerk’s office where law enforcement officers can find the Respondent to serve him or her with the *Ex Parte* CPO and other necessary papers.

YOU MUST ATTEND THE FULL HEARING

The full hearing on the Petition for a CPO will be set in 7 or 10 business days after the *ex parte* hearing. You **must** attend the full hearing. You may have an attorney present with you at the full hearing.

At the full hearing you must tell what happened again. This time you tell what happened in more detail. Bring with you any witnesses and evidence you have, such as photographs, answering machine tapes, other audio and video recordings, papers such as police reports, hospital records, etc, and any other evidence that will help you prove that the Respondent committed domestic violence against you or another family or household member. Tell the judge or magistrate why you fear the Respondent. You may call the Respondent as a witness to help you prove your case. Tell the judge or magistrate again what you want the court to do to help keep you and your family members safe.

The respondent may have an attorney. You may want to ask for a continuance in order to get an attorney. The Respondent may also present evidence and call you as a witness. You may be asked questions by the Respondent or their attorney.

After the hearing, if the judge or magistrate decides you are entitled to a CPO, the court issues a new CPO called a “Domestic Violence Full Hearing CPO.” This CPO is usually more detailed than the *Ex Parte* CPO issued after the first hearing. The judge or magistrate could also deny your Petition for a CPO if the court decides you are not entitled to a CPO. The law does not allow the court to issue a protection order against you, unless the Respondent has filed a separate action against you.

At the full hearing, you and the Respondent can decide to enter into a Consent Agreement instead of having a hearing in front of the judge or magistrate. If you decide to enter into a Consent Agreement, give the judge or magistrate the Consent Agreement and Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order form contained in the “How to Get a Domestic Violence Protection Order” packet. The court should also have a Consent Agreement and Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order form available.

ENFORCING YOUR CPO

Your CPO remains in effect for five years, unless the court sets a different expiration date.

Violating a CPO is a crime. If the Respondent violates the CPO, it is a crime. Immediately contact the police.

You may also bring a contempt action in domestic relations court for CPO violations. A contempt action is brought because the Respondent is disregarding the court’s order. You must complete and file a contempt motion with the clerk of court’s office to begin a contempt action against the Respondent.

CRIMINAL COURT

In addition to the *ex parte* hearing and full hearing in domestic relations court, you should attend all meetings and hearings as requested by the prosecutor and the court related to any criminal case filed against the Respondent.

Tell the domestic relations court about any pending criminal cases. Tell the criminal court about any pending domestic relations court cases.

Any Domestic Violence Criminal Temporary Protection Order (DVTPO) issued by a criminal court expires as soon as the criminal case is ended. A DVTPO issued by a criminal court also expires when a CPO is issued by the domestic relations court based upon the same facts.