



Emergency Order of Protection

What is an Emergency Order of Protection?

Like other Protective orders, an Emergency Order of Protection is also a legal restraint to prevent domestic violence.

If the Court has closed for business, Emergency Orders of Protection are granted by a judge in writing verbally, or telephonically to protect a person who is in imminent danger of domestic violence.

An Emergency Order may be used to order a person not to commit acts of domestic violence or contact people protected by the order. Similar to the Order of Protection, it also provides protective relief, such as exclusive use of the home and removing firearms from an abuser.

How to get an Emergency Order of Protection?

Emergency Orders of Protection are available from local law enforcement agencies. If you are not in immediate danger, you can call your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency telephone number. **If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

The law enforcement agency will dispatch an officer to review your situation. If appropriate, the officer will contact the court after hours to request the Court grant an Emergency Order of Protection. If the order is granted, it will be a temporary order good only until the close of the next day of court business following the day the Emergency Order was issued. The Emergency Order of Protection is good until the end of the next open court business day to give you time to file a Petition for an Order of Protection.

In counties with a population of 150,000 persons or more, the presiding judge of the Superior Court must make available, on a rotating basis, a judicial officer to issue Emergency Orders during the hours that the courts are closed. There is no similar requirement for counties having a smaller population. However, in smaller counties, a judge, justice of the peace or magistrate may issue an Emergency Order of Protection.