

Protection Orders: What do I need?

FAMILY LAW UNIT

Civil restraining orders protect people from harm or harassment. These orders can provide protection from stalking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER (TRO)

This order is short-term and issued quickly without the person against whom it is issued present. TROs provide immediate protection.

FINAL RESTRAINING ORDER

This order is long-term and issued after a court hearing, where both persons can present their case, and it includes specifics based on the case details.

IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is key with a protection order. There are forms to protect your address from the defendant during the restraining order's effective dates.

COST/FEEs FOR FILING

Louisiana has no costs or filing fees associated with filing a petition for a restraining order. There may be a cost to hire an private attorney.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY RESTRAINING ORDER IS VIOLATED?

It is important to immediately act when a restraining order is violated.

- ✓ Call local law enforcement and inform that you have a restraining order and it is being violated.
- ✓ Provide the responding officer a copy of your restraining order and any evidence of a violation including text messages, voicemails, emails, witnesses etc.

- ✓ Obtain an official record of the violation by filing a police report.
- ✓ Your safety comes first. If you are in danger, go to a safe place right away with someone you trust.
- ✓ Police can arrest the violator based on your report and evidence and may face criminal charges.
- ✓ Keep detailed documents on the incident as it is important in case you return to court.

HOW DO I GET A PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR MY MINOR CHILD?

You can apply for a restraining order for a minor child that involves the court reviewing the case and decides to issue an order based on the child's safety and well being.

Remember!

- ✓ Safety is top priority. Get to a safe place if you feel you are in danger.
- ✓ Document everything to support your case.
- ✓ You have the right to protect yourself from harm and harassment.
- ✓ Call the Louisiana Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-888-411-1333 for resources.

If you feel you cannot afford an attorney, connect with ALSC to apply for services today! Call our toll-free number, **1-866-275-2572** or submit an online application at **www.la-law.org**.