

# Who Can Get An Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection can only be issued to a family or household member. This includes:

- Spouses or former spouses
- Parents and stepparents
- Children and stepchildren
- Other persons related by blood, marriage, or a common child
- Persons who currently (or formerly) live together
- Persons who have a child in common, (regardless of whether or not they have ever been married)
- Persons who have had a dating relationship
- Persons with disabilities and their personal assistants

# Who Can Be Protected?

Any person who lives in the Petitioner's household can be listed as a protected person on the Order of Protection, whether or not such persons have a family or household relationship with the Respondent.

Anyone can file for an Order of Protection on behalf of a person who can't file on their own behalf due to age, disability, or health.

# Staying Safe With An Order of Protection

An Order of Protection can be a very effective way to prevent the abuser from continuing to be violent toward you, but it does not guarantee your safety. It is possible that the abuser will increase the level of violence toward you after you get an Order of Protection. It is important to have a safety plan in place. Consider the following to be part of your safety plan:

- Have emergency telephone numbers memorized or within easy access
- Have a bag packed and stored in a safe place with items you will need in case you have to leave quickly
- Get an unlisted telephone number
- Consider changing the locks on your home or vehicle
- Teach your children how to get to safety and call "911"
- Change your routines - drive different routes and shop at different stores
- Keep a cell phone with you at all times

## Places to Call for Help:

(All services are free and confidential)

Community Crisis Center (Kane Co.)

(847) 697-2380

Family Shelter Services (DuPage Co.)

(630) 469-5650

WINGS Program (Cook Co.)

(847) 221-5680

Hanover Park Police Social Services

(630) 823-5579

# ORDERS OF PROTECTION

## An Overview



*Information Presented By The  
Hanover Park Police Department  
Social Services Unit*

# What Is An Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection is a document issued by a court to help you (the Petitioner) protect yourself from someone (the Respondent) who is abusing or harassing you.

An Order of Protection can:

- Prohibit further abuse, harassment, or threats
- Grant you exclusive possession of the residence
- Prohibit the abuser from contacting you
- Prohibit the abuser from entering your school or job
- Award temporary child custody and determine visitation
- Recommend that the abuser undergo counseling
- Forbid the abuser from taking or destroying property
- Order the abuser to pay child support, legal costs, and medical expenses

# How Do I Get An Order of Protection?

You will have to go to your local courthouse and appear before a judge to request an Order of Protection.

Cook Co: 2121 N. Euclid, Rolling Meadows  
DuPage Co: 505 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton

In DuPage County you may begin the process yourself by completing the Petition online at [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org). You will still need to go to court to finalize the paperwork and see the judge.

## Criminal Court:

A criminal Order of Protection should be obtained when a victim has signed a complaint against the offender, or when an arrest has been made.

Contact the State's Attorney's Office. They will prosecute the criminal charge and assist you in obtaining an Order of Protection at no cost to you.

State's Attorney Victim/Witness Unit:

Cook County: (847) 818-2326  
DuPage County: (630) 407-8009

## Civil Court:

A civil Order of Protection can be obtained when a victim feels at risk of harm, but chooses not to press charges against an abuser, or if there is not sufficient evidence for an arrest. You do not need an attorney and no fees are charged.

For court advocacy services and assistance in completing the forms, you may contact the following organizations which have offices in the courthouse.

Cook County: Between Friends  
(847) 818-8900

DuPage County: Family Shelter Service  
(630) 682-6777

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An Emergency Order of Protection lasts a maximum of 21 days. You will be given another court date for a hearing to request an extension of the Order. You MUST attend that hearing or the Order will be dropped. The abuser has the opportunity to be present in court on the hearing date to give testimony.

# What Do I Do After I Have an Order of Protection?

- Call the courthouse to verify that the Respondent has been "served" with a copy of the Order by the Sheriff.

Cook Co: (847) 818-2097  
DuPage Co: (630) 682-7100

- You may ask the local police to serve the Order. Go to the police department or call "911" when the Respondent is home and give the police a copy of the Order to serve to the Respondent.
- Keep a copy of the Order with you at all times. Make extra copies to give to your employer, schools, daycare, or any other protected person listed.
- Document violations of the Order: record dates and times the abuser contacts you, save all harassing phone or text communications, gather photos and police reports.
- If the abuser violates the Order criminally by abusing you again or coming onto protected property or repeatedly harassing you, **call the police**.
- Ask that the abuser be arrested for violating the Order. Ask to sign a complaint. Ask for a police report to be filled out, and request a copy.
- If the abuser violates the Order in a way that is not criminal (ex: failing to pay child support), the abuser can be held in contempt of court. Consult your State's Attorney or victim advocate.