

Protective Orders: The Basics

A protective order is a piece of paper signed by a judge that is meant to protect you from someone who is hurting you or threatening to hurt you



Scan here to view the full “Understanding Protective Orders in Richmond, VA” booklet developed by Project LOTUS
Linking Outreach, Trust, Understanding and Safety for People with Disabilities

Different Types of Protective Orders

Emergency Protective Order

- Lasts for 3 business days
- Granted by the magistrate when the court is closed, such as at night and on holidays and weekends

Preliminary Protective Order

- Lasts for 15 days but can be extended up to 6 months
- Can be issued before or after the hearing for the “full” protective order

Full Protective Order


- Lasts for 2 years or until the judge says it expires
- Can be extended if you request another hearing before it expires



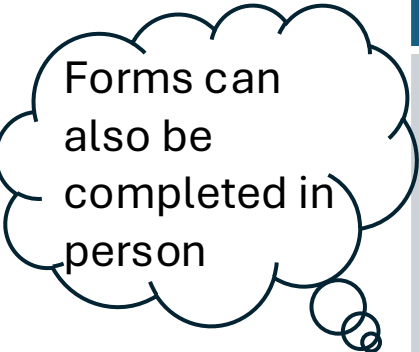
Family Abuse Protective Orders

Who can you be protected from?

Someone you share a child with	Your siblings, including half and step	Your boyfriend or girlfriend you lived with in the last year
Spouse, including ex's	Your grandparents and grandchildren	The children of your boyfriend or girlfriend
Your parents or stepparents	Your spouse's family	Legal custodian of a juvenile



Protection from spouse's family requires you live together now



Forms can also be completed in person

How can you get a Family Abuse Protective Order?

1

Use the [iCAN! Virginia Website](#) to fill out the forms to take with you to court

2

Go to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services Unit Intake Office located at:
1600 Oliver Hill Way,
Richmond, VA 23219

Scan here to view the necessary paperwork for requesting for a protective order. Additional iCAN! Virginia Resources and the form can be found at the following website:
<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/afapo/home>



SCAN ME

Non-Family Abuse Protective Orders

Who can you be protected from?

Your caregiver

Your neighbor

Your friend or
coworker

Your boyfriend or
girlfriend who you
do not share a
child with and did
not live with in the
last year

Anyone threatening
to or hurting you,
even if you do not
know them

Anyone threatening
to or hurting you
who is not family

Applies to
people who are
not family or
household
members

How can you get a Non-Family Abuse Protective Order?

Forms can
also be
completed in
person

1

Use the [iCAN! Virginia Website](#) to fill out the forms to take with you to court

2

Go to the Clerk's Office of the General District Court located at:
800 E Marshall St,
Richmond, VA 23219

Scan here to view the necessary paperwork for requesting for a protective order. Additional iCAN! Virginia Resources and the form can be found at the following website:
<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/afapo/home>



SCAN ME

Protective Orders:

What to bring and what not to bring to the courthouse

DO's

- Your ID
- Description of the person who hurt you
- Birth certificate and social security numbers for children you would like protected
- Evidence you have of being hurt, such as police reports, threatening messages, and hospital visits

DON'Ts

- Electronic devices, such as Smart watches, tape recorders, cell phones/cameras, headphones/Bluetooth devices
- Weapons
- Snacks or drinks, glass containers/bottles
- Handcuff keys
- Construction tools

Protective Orders:

What to do and what not to do at the courthouse

DO's

- Let the court know ahead of time if you need an accommodation for a disability, such as a listening device or sign language interpreter
- Dress respectfully, as if you are going to a job interview

DON'Ts

- Smoke at the courthouse
- Wear clothing with swear words or obscene pictures

Scan here to view the form to request accommodations. Other resources related to support for people with disabilities in the judicial system and this form can be found at the following website:

[VA Courts Americans with Disabilities Act](https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/ada/home)
(<https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/ada/home>)



Frequently Asked Questions

Need more help?

Contact Richmond Victim
Witness Services located at
800 E Marshall St,
Richmond, VA 23219
804-646-7665



What if the court is closed when you need a Protective Order?

You can request an Emergency Protective Order at the Magistrate's Office located at: Richmond City Justice System, 1701 Fairfield Way, Richmond, VA 23219

What if you are under 18?

You can still be protected by a Family or Non-Family Protective Order. Go to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services Unit Intake Office located at: 1600 Oliver Hill Way, Richmond, VA 23219

What if you want a protective against a same-sex partner?

You can still ask for a protective order, whether or not you are married to this same-sex partner. Same sex couples are seen in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court located at: 1600 Oliver Hill Way, Richmond, VA 23219

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