

If you are in danger, call 911

For questions, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233

TDD:

1-800-787-3224

Domestic Violence?

If your spouse, a relative or someone you are dating has abused you (or threatened to abuse you) you can ask the court for help.

This card explains how.

What is abuse?

Abuse means to:

- hit, kick, throw things, pull hair, push,
- follow, harass,
- sexually assault, or
- to threaten to do any of these things.

How can the court help me?

The court can order the abuser to:

- Move out of your home
- Not contact or go near you or your children
- Not have a gun
- Obey custody, visitation, and support orders

How do I ask the court for help?

Fill out these forms:

- DV-100, *Request for Order*, and
- DV-110, *Temporary Restraining Order*

The court clerk can give you these forms. Or you can get them online at: courtinfo.ca.gov/forms

If you have children

The clerk can tell you which forms you need to ask for custody and support orders.

What do I do with my completed forms?

Take them to the court clerk's office and file them.

That same day (or the next working day), the clerk will tell you if the judge decided to make the order.

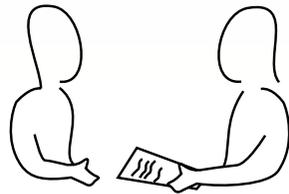
If the judge made the order, the clerk will give you 5 "filed" copies of your order.

What do I do with the copies of my order?

- Keep one copy with you at all times – in case you need to show the police.
- Keep another copy in a safe place.
- You can also give a copy to someone where you work and live, and
- Have someone 18 or older and not involved in your case serve (give) the abuser a copy of the order.

Can someone help me serve the abuser?

Yes. Tell the clerk you want a law enforcement officer to serve the abuser.



The officer will file a "proof of service" to show the court that the abuser has been served.

How much does it cost?

Nothing. It is free.

How long does the order last?

It lasts until your court hearing. At the hearing, the judge may make the order last for up to 3 years.

Important! If there is no proof of service, your order will end on the date of the hearing.

Do I have to go back to court?

Yes. The first order (called a temporary order) only lasts until your hearing.

You must go back to court for the hearing if you want the order to last longer.

What if I am too afraid?

It's OK to be afraid. And, there are people and organizations that can help you.

Even if you do not ask for an order now, they can show you how to make a safety plan – to protect yourself and your children.

What if I have questions?

Getting an order is complicated. You can get free, private help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233

TDD: **1-800-787-3224**

They can help you in 100+ languages.

If you are in danger, call **911**

When folded, this document fits discretely in a wallet.



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