

I was served with a civil protection order. What happens next?



Prepare for court

Find the date and time of the **hearing** listed in the temporary order.

If you do not show up at the hearing, the judge may issue a full protection order.

What is a civil protection order?

It is a **court order** someone asked for that is meant to protect that person from you. It is not part of a criminal case. No prosecutor is involved.

A **protected person** gets a protection order against a **restrained person** (you).



Read the order carefully

It will say what you can and cannot do. If you do not obey the order, you can be arrested and charged with a crime. This is true even if the protected person says it is okay.



Respond in writing

You can write a response explaining your side on form PO 018, *Declaration*. You can attach documents or other evidence that help prove what you are saying is true. Witnesses can also use this form to explain what they saw or heard.

File your declaration/s with the court clerk. Have someone else send or give a copy to the protected person before the hearing. You cannot serve them yourself.

File and serve your declaration/s as soon as possible. If the protected person does not get their copies in advance, they may ask the judge to reschedule the hearing.

Also fill out and file PO 003R, *Law Enforcement and Confidential Information-Restrained Person*. You do not have to give this form to the protected person.

Get forms at courts.wa.gov/forms/.



Go to the court hearing

If you were served less than 5 court days before the hearing, or you need more time to prepare, you can ask the judge to reschedule.

If the case is ready, the judge will review the record, let you and the other person speak, hear from other witnesses if necessary, and then decide whether to issue a full protection order.

If you do not attend the hearing, the judge may issue a full protection order against you. The full order could last for a year or more. If the full order has the same restraints as the temporary order and you are accused of violating it, you can be criminally charged, even if you are not served with the full protection order. It can be used against you, even if you are not served with it.



What if I want to change the protection order later?

If a full protection order is issued, you can use PO 063, *Motion to Modify or Terminate Protection Order*, to request a change or termination later. You can only file this motion once in a 12-month period.

This information is a summary, not a complete list. For advice about your situation, talk to a lawyer.