

Domestic Violence 3: How to File

Protective Orders are court orders that require one person to refrain from doing certain acts against another person. It's Maryland's version of a restraining order or stay-away order. The protective order process can be a dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. **Stay alert and find help at mdcourts.gov/dv or call a Maryland Court Help Center at 410-260-1392.**

Forms to File

- The forms you need are [Petition for Protection from Domestic Violence \(CC-DC-DV-001\)](#) and [Addendum – Description of Respondent \(CC-DC-PO-026\)](#). Pick up the forms from a courthouse, commissioner's office, or online at mdcourts.gov/dv.
- On the forms, the person who wants protection is called the Petitioner. The other person, or the alleged abuser, is called the Respondent.
- The form has space for you to describe the abuse. Be specific and detailed. Include information about the Respondent's access to firearms.

Address Privacy

- When you file court documents to open a case, the court requires law enforcement to provide copies of those documents – which include your contact information – to the other person.
- If safety is a concern and disclosing your address puts you at risk of further harm, ask the court to keep your contact information private. Use the form called [Request to Withhold Address CC-DC-PO-026](#).
- There is a more permanent way to keep your address private. Learn more at mdcourts.gov/addressprivacy.

Where to File

- You may file a protective order petition if you live in Maryland or if the abuse happened in Maryland.
- If courts are open, file your papers in a courthouse. If you have a current custody or divorce case with the other person, consider filing in the same courthouse where that case was heard.

Watch the Video



Maryland Court Help

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- Courts are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. most weekdays. If courts are closed, find a [District Court Commissioner's Office](#). The Commissioner ONLY accepts temporary protective orders when courts are closed.
- If you filed your papers in court, you will have an immediate hearing. If you filed your papers in a Commissioner's Office, you will have a hearing with a judge in court a couple of days later. If a temporary order is granted you will return for a final court hearing.



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