



COMMUNITY LIAISON UNIT

COLUMBUS DIVISION OF POLICE • STRATEGIC RESPONSE BUREAU

Information on Protection Orders

Victims of certain types of violent crimes may be eligible for a protection order. An Order of Protection (protection order) is a temporary order intended to help provide safety and protection to victims of certain crimes.

There are four types of Protection Orders that are enforceable by the police:

1. Domestic Violence Temporary Protection Order (DVTPO)
2. Criminal Protection Order (CrPO)
3. Civil Protection Order (CPO)
4. Stalking Sexually Oriented Offender Protection Order (SSOOPO)

NOTE:

- A 'Stay Away Order' **as** a condition of bond CANNOT be enforced by the police, only by the issuing judge.
- Restraining Orders issued in divorce cases CAN, NOT be enforced by the police.
- There must be a criminal charge filed to request a DVTPO or a CRPO. The prosecutor will represent you in seeking either a DVTPO or CRPO.
- Criminal charges do not have to be filed for a CPO or SSOOPO. An attorney is not required, but it is recommended that you obtain legal representation in order to request a CPO or SSOOPO.
- There is no court fee for Protection Orders.

Once a Protection Order is issued, the abuser can have no contact with you, even with your permission. Only a judge can change the terms and conditions of the Order. A Protection Order is intended for persons who are in fear for their safety. The abuser can be arrested for violating the Protection Order.

If you have questions about Criminal or Civil Protection Orders, please call the Columbus City Prosecutor's Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit at (614) 645-6232.

When you have a Protection Order

- Make sure you have a copy of your Protection Order with you at all times!
- Have absolutely no contact with the defendant until the case is over.
- Do not go where the defendant is staying or places he/she may be.
- Do not invite the defendant into your home or to meet you elsewhere.
- Take a copy of the Protection Order to your neighborhood police station so they will be aware of potential problems. Change your door locks and keep your doors and windows locked.

- Put sturdy sticks in windows and sliding glass doors.
- Alert neighbors, co-workers, schools and daycare centers to call police if defendant is seen at your home, work, or school.
- Have someone stay with you, if possible.
- Do not go out alone.
- Remember that witnesses are very important. Be around people whenever possible.