



VIDEO 1

What is a Protection Order and How it Can be Part of Your Safety Plan

Get Protection From Abuse

While it's always best to consult a lawyer, this 7-part video series from Legal Aid of Western Ohio will help you navigate the legal system and take you step-by-step through the process of getting a civil protection order to protect yourself and those you care about.



What is a Civil Protection Order (CPO)?

A CPO is an official document from the court. In the state of Ohio, CPO's are issued by the Domestic Relations Court in the county where you live. When the court issues a CPO, they are ordering an abuser to STOP certain actions to keep family members, safe.

How do I know if I legally "qualify" for a CPO?

You must meet a **"legal standard"** when seeking a CPO. You have to prove that your abuser did one of the following: attempted to cause or caused you bodily injury; threatened serious physical harm to you or another person; engaged in a pattern that caused you to fear physical harm, mental distress or fear of mental distress; acted in a way that would result in a child being abused; committed a sexually oriented offense.



Are there different types of CPO's?

You can request a Domestic Violence CPO if your abuser is related to you by blood or marriage, including a parent or adult child. A Dating CPO can be requested if you have been dating the abuser within the last 12 months. You are not required to live with this person.

Other Courts can order other types of protection orders such as Civil Stalking and Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders, Temporary Protection Orders that remain in effect during criminal proceedings, or post-conviction protection orders. This video focuses on orders issued out of the Domestic Relations Court.





How can a CPO be a part of my safety plan?

A CPO is a good step, but does not guarantee your safety. Other precautions may include: changing the locks in your home, installing a security system, using a code word with family and friends, storing important documents in a safe place.



Everyone has the right to live free from domestic violence. For more information on protecting yourself and your family, contact:



Your local domestic violence agency.

To find your agency, contact
Ohio Domestic Violence Network at

www.odvn.org/find-help



Your local Legal Aid.

To find the Legal Aid for your county, contact
www.ohiolegalhelp.org/find-your-legal-aid



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