



VIDEO 5

How to Prepare for the Full Hearing - Subpoenas and Discovery



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 Full Hearing?

After the preliminary hearing when filing for a Civil Protection Order (CPO), you will have a second hearing seven to ten days later, known as the, "full hearing." This is when you and your abuser come before the judge or magistrate to agree or disagree on the terms of the CPO.

How do I Prepare for the Full Hearing?

It's very important to be **prepared** for your full hearing with a timeline of events, including specific dates, details of what happened, and who was present. Bring **evidence**, including photos, police reports, medical records, and texts. **Witnesses** can strengthen your case. Make sure they are well prepared and can provide details of what they saw and heard.



How can I get witnesses to testify?

A **subpoena** is an official document that requires witnesses (including law enforcement) to appear in court. To get a subpoena, contact the Clerk of Courts in your county for instructions.





If your abuser has a lawyer, you may receive a **"discovery request."** This is a formal process of exchanging information between two parties about witnesses and evidence. Unless you receive this request from the court, formally stamped by a judge or magistrate, you are not required to respond. If you receive a court order to comply with a discovery request, you should follow the directions. You may want to consult an attorney at that time

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



To find your agency, contact
Ohio Domestic Violence Network at

www.odvn.org/find-help



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



Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. is a non-profit law firm serving civil legal needs of northwest and west central Ohio's low income individuals, families and seniors. This information is not legal advice. It is general information. It is not a substitute for talking to a lawyer about your situation. You may still need help from a lawyer. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.