



Domestic Violence:

I Think I Want to File a Restraining Order (Advocate)

Filing for a restraining order can seem complicated and overwhelming but may be an important step in securing the safety of the victim and their family.

Peace Order vs. Protective Order (Watch 00:18 – 01:04)

- Watch *Peace Order vs. Protective Order* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review the two types of orders with the victim.
 - Ask them if they would like to file an order. If so, help them determine which order they are eligible for based on their relationship to the person they are filing against.
 - Review the acts covered by the order together.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.

The 3 Types of Orders (Watch 01:04 – 01:35)

- Watch *The 3 Types of Orders* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review the three types of orders.
 - If the victim would like to file an order, help them locate the nearest courthouse in their county. In addition, help them determine if they need to file a temporary order or an interim order based on whether or not they plan to do so during court business hours.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - <https://www.courts.state.md.us/district/directories/courtmap>

Applying for a Temporary Order (Watch 01:35 – 02:20)

- Watch *Applying for a Temporary Order* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Step 1
 - Remind them they can visit the civil clerk's office in the nearest courthouse in their county to fill out a petition.

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Administrative Office: 410-889-0840 • **Linea en Español:** 410-889-7889 Oprimá 8

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- Additionally, explain that they don't need any documentation to file an order, but it's helpful to have the abuser's full name, address, employer, and a good description of them so the police can serve the abuser if the order is granted.
- Step 2
 - Remind them that they will appear in front of a judge to explain what happened to them and the relief they are seeking.
 - Explain the different kinds of relief.
 - Ask if they would like help determining the type of relief they can seek.
 - Review the terms "petitioner" and "respondent" with them.
- Ask if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - <https://www.courts.state.md.us/district/directories/courtmap>

Types of Temporary Relief (Watch 02:20 – 02:55)

- Watch *Types of Temporary Relief* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Based on the type of order they are eligible for (protective order OR peace order), review the types of relief that may be available to them.
 - Ask if they have any questions.

Applying for a Temporary Order (Continued) (Watch 02:55 – 03:26)

- Watch *Applying for a Temporary Order* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Step 3:
 - Remind them that if the judge grants their order, they will receive a copy of the temporary order with a court date.
 - Review the role of legal service providers. Ask them if they would like to seek legal representation.



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- If so, review the services that legal service providers can help with. Determine together what services they would like assistance with.
- If they do not wish to seek legal representation, remind them that they can also represent themselves.
- Step 4:
 - Remind them that law enforcement will serve the temporary order to the offender. They cannot do it themselves.
- Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - <https://www.mdlab.org/>
 - <https://www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>

Applying for a Final Order (Watch 03:26 – 04:16)

- Watch *Applying for a Final Order* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Step 1
 - Remind them they must return to court for the final order hearing.
 - Based on the order they are eligible for (protective order OR peace order), ask them if they know what to do if the respondent was not served.
 - Step 2
 - Explain that the court will hear from both parties and decide whether to give them a final order and also what relief to grant.
 - Remind them to bring all their evidence and witnesses with them to the final order hearing.
 - Ask them if they have any questions about what is meant by evidence or witnesses.
 - If so, remind them that a legal service provider can help answer these questions.
 - Based on the order they are eligible for (protective order OR peace order), explain how long the relief—if granted—may last.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.



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- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - <https://www.mdlab.org/>
 - <https://www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>

Applying for an Interim Order (Watch 04:16 – 04:46)

- Watch *Applying for an Interim Order* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Step 1
 - Remind them that they can go to the nearest commissioner's office when the courts are closed to complete a petition for protection from domestic violence or a petition for peace order.
 - Review what will happen when they appear before the commissioner.
 - Review what will happen if the interim order is granted.
 - Ask if they have any questions.
- If they ask for more resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - <https://mdcourts.gov/district/directories/commissionermap>

Online Resources

District Court Locations:

<https://www.courts.state.md.us/district/directories/courtmap>

Maryland Court Help:

<https://www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>

Maryland Commissioner Stations:

<https://mdcourts.gov/district/directories/commissionermap>

Maryland Legal Aid:

<https://www.mdlab.org/>

House of Ruth Maryland Hotline: 410-889-RUTH (7884) | www.hruth.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 | www.thehotline.org