

UNDERSTANDING WASHINGTON STATE DISTRICT COURT PROTECTION ORDERS How THEY CAN HELP YOU

If you have a protection order, remember:

1. Keep a **certified copy** of your order with you at all times.
2. The order is enforceable throughout the state of Washington, the United States, and in U.S. territories.
3. If you move to another state, you can take a **certified copy** of your final order to the local court in your new state or territory to register it. Registration is not required, but it can help with enforcement.
4. If there is a violation of your protection order, call 9-1-1 or your local police. Tell them you have a court order and it is being violated.

Whether or not you have a protection order, if you are being harassed,

threatened, or assaulted, call 9-1-1 or your local police!

Types of Protection Orders In District Court

DISTRICT OR SUPERIOR COURT PROTECTION ORDERS

Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)

To protect against domestic violence or threat of violence by an “intimate partner” or a “family or household member.” Domestic violence may include controlling behavior (“coercive control”). Petitioners may seek protection for themselves and for family or household members who are minors or vulnerable adults.

A petitioner who has been sexually assaulted, harassed, or stalked **by an intimate partner or a family or household member** should, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence protection order, instead of another type of protection order.

Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO)

To protect a victim of nonconsensual sexual conduct or penetration, even if the conduct or penetration only occurred once. A single incident of nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration is sufficient grounds for a petition for a sexual assault protection order.

Antiharassment Protection Order (AHPO)

To protect against unwanted contact or behavior that causes substantial emotional distress and serves no legitimate or lawful purpose. The contact could be a pattern of behavior that occurs over time, or a single act or threat of violence. The contact must be directed specifically at the protected person and be seriously alarming, annoying, harassing, or detrimental.

Stalking Protection Order (SPO)

To protect against stalking behavior that serves no lawful purpose and has reasonably caused the protected person to feel intimidated, frightened, under duress, significantly disrupted, or threatened. The respondent either knows or should know that their behavior causes those feelings, even if that was not respondent's intent.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)

To restrain a respondent who poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having in custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, or receiving a firearm where there is reasonable fear of future dangerous acts by the respondent.

Harassment No-Contact Order-Criminal (HNCO)

To protect against unlawful, repeated invasions of a person's privacy, including through stalking, by acts and threats which show a pattern of harassment designed to coerce, intimidate, or humiliate the victim. The crime must be reported, and the defendant has to be charged before a court can issue this order.

Domestic Violence No-Contact Order-Criminal (DVNCO)

To protect a victim against future violence or threats of abuse by the defendant. The abuse must be reported, and the defendant has to be charged before a court can issue this order.

SUPERIOR COURT PROTECTION ORDERS

Vulnerable Adult Protection Order (VAPO)

To protect a vulnerable adult who has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or is threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect by respondent. The vulnerable adult, guardian, or other interested person may file on behalf of the vulnerable adult.

Foreign Protection Order Information (FPOI)

A process to help Washington State courts and law enforcement recognize and enforce a protection order from another US state, territory, possession, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, any US military tribunal, or a tribal court.

Canadian DV Protection Order (CDVPO)

A process to help Washington State courts and law enforcement recognize and enforce a protection order from any province in Canada.

Abused Child Restraining Order (ACRO)

To minimize trauma to a child who disclosed sexual or physical abuse by a parent, other family or household member, legal custodian, or guardian. The intent is to provide the earliest intervention possible.

Family Law Restraining Order (FLRO)

To prevent abuse, harassment, or harm to a person or child involved in a family law case such as a divorce, parentage, or a parenting plan (domestic relations).

**Forms and instructions are available
at the court clerk's office**

DVPO	Domestic Violence Protection Order
Who can get a DVPO? RCW 7.105.100	People with any of these relationships to the abuser: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouses or domestic partners (current or former) • Have a child in common (unless child was conceived through sexual assault) • Dating relationship (current or former). Must be at least age 13. If under 15, petition must be filed by a person age 15 or older who is a member of your family or household • Related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, or adoption • People who live or lived together (current or former) • People with a parent-child relationship (biological or legal), including stepparents and stepchildren, grandparents and grandchildren, or a parent's intimate partner and children • Legal guardian (current or former)
What can a DVPO do? RCW 7.105.310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit contact of any kind, including cyber harassment, and be tailored to individual needs • Remove abuser from shared residence and prohibit from entering • Give temporary custody of children and set visitation schedule • Grant essential possessions (examples: vehicle, medicine, pets) • Order abuser into treatment or counseling • Order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license/s
How do you get a DVPO? RCW 7.105.100; .200; .205	A petition must describe the acts of domestic violence committed against the protected person/s by an intimate partner or a family or household member. The court will either deny or grant a temporary order effective for up to 14 days. If the court denies the temporary order, the petitioner has 14 days to file an amended complaint. The petitioner can ask the clerk to have law enforcement serve the respondent or arrange service through other legal means. Law enforcement must serve the respondent if the order requires weapons surrender, vacating a shared residence, transfer of child custody or if the restrained person is incarcerated. The final hearing may be held in person, by telephone, or online, if requested 3 court days prior to the hearing. At the final hearing, both parties may speak and present evidence. The court will either deny or grant the order.
What is the Cost?	No cost.
How is a DVPO renewed? RCW 7.105.405	If the final order is not permanent, it can be renewed multiple times. The petitioner must file a motion to renew within the 90 days leading up to the order's expiration. The respondent must be served. The order will be renewed unless the respondent proves there has been a substantial change in circumstances and they will not resume acts of domestic violence.
How is a DVPO changed or terminated? RCW 7.105.500	The petitioner may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) at any time. The respondent may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) a final order no more than one time in any 12-month period after the order was granted. A hearing will be set only if, based on the motion and responding declarations, the court finds there may be reason to modify or terminate the order.
What if the DVPO is violated? RCW 7.105.450	Mandatory arrest for knowing violation of certain provisions. Possible criminal or contempt charges. Having access to or possessing a firearm/s while an Order to Surrender and Prohibit Weapons is in effect could result in arrest and criminal or civil penalties.

SAPO	Sexual Assault Protection Order
Who can get a SAPO? RCW 7.105.100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person age 15 or older on behalf of themselves or a minor if they are the parent, guardian, or custodian • Person age 15 to 17 on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a minor who is a family or household member if chosen to do so by the minor • An interested person on behalf of the vulnerable adult • An interested person on behalf of an adult who does not qualify as a vulnerable adult but who cannot file for themselves. Must demonstrate the petitioner is interested in the adult's wellbeing and the court's intervention is necessary
What can a SAPO do? RCW 7.105.310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit contact of any kind, including cyber harassment, and be tailored to individual needs • Exclude the restrained party, and/or prohibit them from knowingly coming within a specific distance, from petitioner's work place, school, residence, petitioner's person, etc. • Order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license(s)
How do you get a SAPO? RCW 7.105.100; .200; .205	<p>A petition must describe the specific facts and circumstances of nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration. The court will either deny or grant a temporary order effective for up to 14 days. If the court denies the temporary order, the petitioner has 14 days to file an amended complaint. The petitioner can ask the clerk to have law enforcement serve the respondent or arrange service through other legal means. Law enforcement must serve the respondent if the order requires weapons surrender, vacating a shared residence, transfer of child custody or if the restrained person is incarcerated. The final hearing may be held in person, by telephone, or online, if requested 3 court days prior to the hearing. At the final hearing, both parties may speak and present evidence. The court will either deny or grant the order.</p>
What is the Cost?	No cost.
How is a SAPO renewed? RCW 7.105.405	<p>If the final order is not permanent, it can be renewed multiple times. The petitioner must file a motion to renew within the 90 days leading up to the order's expiration. The respondent must be served. The order will be renewed unless the respondent proves there has been a substantial change in circumstances and they will not engage in physical or non-physical contact.</p>
How is a SAPO changed or terminated? RCW 7.105.500	<p>The petitioner may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) at any time. The respondent may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) a final order no more than one time in any 12-month period after the order was granted. A hearing will be set only if, based on the motion and responding declarations, the court finds there may be reason to modify or terminate the order.</p>
What if the SAPO is violated? RCW 7.105.450	<p>Mandatory arrest for knowing violation of certain provisions. Possible criminal or contempt charges.</p> <p>Having access to or possessing a firearm/s while an Order to Surrender and Prohibit Weapons is in effect could result in arrest and criminal or civil penalties.</p>

AHPO	Antiharassment Protection Order
Who can get an AHPO? RCW 7.105.100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person age 15 or older on behalf of themselves or a minor if they are the parent, guardian, or custodian • Person age 15 to 17 on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a minor who is a family or household member if chosen to do so by the minor • An interested person on behalf of the vulnerable adult • An interested person on behalf of an adult who does not qualify as a vulnerable adult but who cannot file for themselves. Must demonstrate the petitioner is interested in the adult's wellbeing and the court's intervention is necessary
What can an AHPO do? RCW 7.105.310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit contact of any kind, and be tailored to individual needs • Exclude the restrained party, and/or prohibit them from knowingly coming within a specific distance, from petitioner's work place, school, residence, petitioner's person, etc. • Order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license(s)
How do you get an AHPO? RCW 7.105.100; .200; .205	<p>A petition must describe acts of unlawful harassment committed against the protected person/s by the respondent. If the court denies the temporary order, petitioner has 14 days to file an amended complaint. The petitioner can ask the clerk to have law enforcement serve the respondent or arrange service through other legal means. The final hearing may be held in person, by telephone, or online, if requested 3 court days prior to the hearing. If granted, the final order cannot exceed one (1) year. A temporary AHO cannot be granted if the petitioner has made two previous filings against the respondent but been unable to obtain a final AHO.</p>
What is the Cost? RCW 7.105.105(9)	<p>Filing fees vary, and additional costs may apply. Fees must be waived if you cannot pay or if you seek protection from domestic violence, nonconsensual sexual conduct or penetration or a sex offense, stalking, hate crime, or a single act of violence or threat of violence including malicious and intentional threat or presence of firearm/weapon causing substantial emotional distress.</p>
How is an AHPO renewed? RCW 7.105.405	<p>If the final order is not permanent, it can be renewed multiple times. The petitioner must file a motion to renew within the 90 days leading up to the order's expiration. The respondent must be served. The order will be renewed unless the respondent proves there has been a substantial change in circumstances and they will not resume harassment.</p>
How is an AHPO changed or terminated? RCW 7.105.500	<p>The petitioner may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) at any time. The respondent may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) a final order no more than one time in any twelve-month period after the order was granted. A hearing will be set only if, based on the motion and responding declarations, the court finds there may be reason to modify or terminate the order.</p>
What if the AHPO is violated? RCW 7.105.455	<p>Respondents over 18 years old may be arrested, and face possible criminal charges for willful disobedience of the "no harm" "exclude and stay away", and "interference about pets" provisions. Respondents under 18 years old may only be held in contempt for willful disobedience of the terms of the order and the court may impose sanctions for willful disobedience of the same provisions. Having access to or possessing a firearm/s while an Order to Surrender and Prohibit Weapons is in effect could result in arrest and criminal or civil penalties.</p>

SPO	Stalking Protection Order
Who can get a SPO? RCW 7.105.100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person age 15 or older on behalf of themselves or a minor if they are the parent, guardian, or custodian • Person age 15 to 17 on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a minor who is a family or household member if chosen to do so by the minor • An interested person on behalf of the vulnerable adult • An interested person on behalf of an adult who does not qualify as a vulnerable adult but who cannot file for themselves. Must demonstrate the petitioner is interested in the adult's wellbeing and the court's intervention is necessary.
What can a SPO do? RCW 7.105.310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit contact of any kind, including cyber harassment, and be tailored to individual needs • Exclude the restrained party, and/or prohibit them from knowingly coming within a specific distance, from petitioner's work place, school, residence, petitioner's person, etc. • Order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license(s)
How do you get a SPO? RCW 7.105.100; .200; .205	A petition must allege the existence of stalking committed against the petitioner or petitioners by the respondent. The court will either deny or grant a temporary order effective for up to 14 days. If the court denies the temporary order, petitioner has 14 days to file an amended complaint. The petitioner can ask the clerk to have law enforcement serve the respondent or arrange service through other legal means. The final hearing may be held in person, by telephone, or online, if requested 3 court days prior to the hearing. At the final hearing, the court will either deny or grant the order. If granted, then the order can be permanent or for a fixed period.
What is the Cost?	No cost.
How is a SPO renewed? RCW 7.105.405	If the final order is not permanent, it can be renewed multiple times. The petitioner must file a motion to renew within the 90 days leading up to the order's expiration. The respondent must be served. The order will be renewed unless the respondent proves there has been a substantial change in circumstances and they will not resume stalking.
How is a SPO changed or terminated? RCW 7.105.500	The petitioner may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) at any time. The respondent may file a motion to terminate or modify (change) a final order no more than one time in any twelve-month period after the order was granted. A hearing will be set only if, based on the motion and responding declarations, the court finds there may be reason to modify or terminate the order.
What if the SPO is violated? RCW 7.105.450	Mandatory arrest of for knowing violation of certain provisions. Possible criminal or contempt charges. Having access to or possessing a firearm/s while an Order to Surrender and Prohibit Weapons is in effect could result in arrest and criminal or civil penalties.

ERPO	Extreme Risk Protection Order
Who can get an ERPO? RCW 7.105.100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An intimate partner • Family or household member • Law enforcement (must make good faith effort to notify the respondent's intimate partner, family or household member, or other third party at risk of violence about the petition and provide resource referrals)
What can an ERPO do? RCW 7.105.340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order the surrender of firearms and any concealed pistol license • Prohibit the possession of firearms • Revoke any concealed pistol license/s
How do you get an ERPO? RCW 7.105.100; .225; .330	<p>A petition must describe how the respondent poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having in the respondent's custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm. The petition must also identify the number, types, and locations of any firearms the petitioner believes to be in the respondent's current ownership, possession, custody, access, or control. The court will either deny or grant a temporary order effective for up to 14 days. Law enforcement must serve this petition. The final hearing may be held in person, by telephone or online, if requested 3 court days prior to the hearing. At the final hearing, both parties may speak and present evidence.</p>
What is the cost?	No cost.
How is an ERPO renewed? RCW 7.105.410	<p>The court must inform the petitioner that the order will expire within the next 105 days. The petitioner must file a motion to renew within the 90 days leading up to the order's expiration. The respondent must be served. The order will be renewed for one year if the petitioner proves the respondent still poses a significant danger to themselves or others by having firearms or dangerous weapons.</p>
How is an ERPO changed or terminated? RCW 7.105.505	<p>The respondent may file to terminate a final order no more than one time in a 12-month period after the order was granted. If the respondent proves they no longer pose a significant danger to themselves or others by having firearms or dangerous weapons, then the court must terminate the order.</p>
What if the ERPO is violated? RCW 7.105.100	May be arrested. Possible criminal or contempt charges.

HNCO	Harassment No-Contact Criminal Order
Who can get an HNCO?	A person who reports an act of harassment, as defined in RCW 9A.46.060, to the police which leads to an arrest or the prosecutor filing criminal charges.
What can an HNCO do? RCW 9A.46.040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrain from contacting, intimidating, or threatening the victim and others listed in the order • Order the defendant to stay away from specific locations • May order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license/s • Protect the victim in an active case while waiting for trial and sentencing (a final order can also be a condition of sentence)
How do you get an HNCO?	A crime must first be reported to the police. If the defendant has been arrested or issued a citation, the victim may ask the prosecutor for an order. The court may also issue the order on behalf of a victim, even if the victim does not request it, to reduce the likelihood of repeated harassment directed at the victim. The order may come out of a criminal case in district, municipal, or superior court. The HNCO can be issued before trial or after a conviction.
What is the Cost?	No cost.
How is an HNCO changed or terminated? RCW 9A.46.055	The pre-trial no contact order ends if the charges are dismissed or the defendant is found not guilty. A post-conviction no-contact order terminates upon the expiration date listed in the order. The order may be modified or terminated by the court before the expiration date. The victim may contact the prosecuting attorney to ask the attorney to file the motion for modification or termination of the order. The defendant or their attorney may also file the motion.
What if the HNCO is violated? RCW 9A.46.080	Mandatory arrest.

DVNCO	Domestic Violence No-Contact Criminal Order
Who can get a DVNCO?	A person who reports an act of domestic violence, as defined in RCW 10.99.020, to the police which leads to an arrest or the prosecutor filing criminal charges.
What can a DVNCO do? RCW 10.99.040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit contact of any kind • Prohibit the defendant from knowingly coming within or staying within a specific distance of a location • Order the surrender and prohibit the possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license(s) • Protect the protected person in an active case while waiting for trial and sentencing • Can also be a condition of sentence and effective up to the statutory maximum sentence and/or until probation is concluded
How do you get a DVNCO?	A crime must first be reported to the police. If the defendant has been arrested or issued a citation, the crime victim may ask the prosecutor to request a no-contact order. The prosecutor may ask the court for a no-contact order regardless of the victim's wishes and before the defendant's first appearance in court. The order may come out of a criminal case in district, municipal or superior court. (In some jurisdictions, orders are issued via the police or jail.) The DVNCO can be issued before trial or after a conviction. A certified copy of the Domestic Violence No Contact Order is provided to you when it is issued.
What is the Cost?	No cost.
How is a DVNCO changed or terminated?	A pre-charge no contact order expires within 72 hours if no charges are filed by the prosecutor. The pre-trial no contact order ends if the charges are dismissed or the defendant is found not guilty. A post-conviction no-contact order terminates upon the expiration date listed in the order. The order shall state that it may be extended. If the court finds probable cause, it may issue or extend a no-contact order. The order may be modified or terminated by the court before the expiration date. The crime victim or the defendant may file a motion to modify or terminate the order themselves. The prosecuting attorney may help the crime victim with this in some places.
What if the DVNCO is violated? RCW 10.99.040; RCW 7.105.450	Mandatory arrest and possible contempt and criminal charges.

There is also a criminal no-contact order for sexual assault cases. RCW 9A.44.210.