



What to Do After You E-File for a Civil Protection Order

Take these steps:

1. Check your email.

- The clerk will email you a receipt for each document you sent.
- If your forms are **complete**, the clerk will stamp and file them. (Download your filed forms within 30 days.)
- If your forms are **not** complete, the clerk's email will explain what to correct. Return to Guide & File. Go to "My Interviews." Correct your answers, and e-file your forms again.

Note: If you file your corrected form(s) within 3 business days, you can ask the clerk to keep your original filing date.

Notify the Clerk right away

if your address, phone number, or email changes.

2. A judge will review your *Petition*.

The clerk will contact you about the next step or the judge's decision. The judge may:



- **Approve** your *Petition* and give you a protection order that lasts 14 days or until the full hearing,
- **Deny** your *Petition*, or
- **Schedule an emergency hearing** (called *ex parte*) for today or the next business day.

If the judge denies your *Petition*, a full hearing may be set within 14 days. (See below.)

3. If there is an *ex parte* hearing...



The judge will decide your *Petition* at the hearing. The judge may ask you to explain why you need the protection order. You may also have to fill out more forms.

The Respondent will not be at this hearing.

If the judge approves the *Petition*, your protection order will last until the full hearing, or for 14 days.

How will the Respondent know about the protection order?



The clerk will arrange for law enforcement to personally serve (give) a copy of all the papers you filed, including the *Petition*, to the Respondent. If law enforcement cannot serve the Respondent within 10 days, they will contact you for more information about how to locate the Respondent.

4. Go to court for the full hearing.

The full hearing is when you *and* the Respondent can be present. You will each be asked to speak to the judge and can give evidence about the need for a protection order.

Evidence can include:

- police reports
- photos
- medical records
- text messages, etc.

The judge **cannot** look at (admit) evidence if it is on your phone or computer. You must print it.



You may also bring **witnesses** to testify. But they must be present at the time of the hearing.

Warning! If you do not go to the hearing, the court can dismiss your protection order.

If the Respondent is at the hearing with a lawyer, you can ask to reschedule the hearing for another day so you can get a lawyer. You also must be prepared for the Respondent's lawyer to question you.

5. A lawyer can speak for you



You can have a lawyer speak for you and help you get ready for this hearing.

Domestic violence victims that are low-income can get **free** legal help from:

- [Idaho Legal Aid Services](#),
- [Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program](#), or
- [University of Idaho Victims' Rights Clinic](#).

Or contact the [Idaho State Bar](#) for a referral to a private lawyer.



Getting a Protection Order is an important step in staying safe. Also take these steps.

Make Copies of Your Order



Once you have a protection order, keep a copy with you **always**. Also leave a copy at the protected places listed in your Order, such as you:

- workplace,
- school,
- children's day care or school, or
- other places you go to often.

Get an Idaho Hope Card



If you have a valid, long-term (6 months or more) protection order, you can order a "Hope Card".

This laminated card is the size of a credit card and lists the most important information from your

Order. Hope Cards are **free**.

Call: **(208) 334-4547**, or

Visit: ag.idaho.gov/victims/idaho-hope-card/

If the Respondent Disobeys your Protection Order...



If the Respondent disobeys your civil protection order, **call the police immediately**. Have a copy of your Order ready to show the officer.

Keep track of each time the Order is disobeyed. This can help get criminal charges filed.

You can also tell friends and neighbors about your Order so they can look out for your safety, too.

Make a Safety Plan Now!

Your local domestic violence program can help you make a safety plan that's right for you. This lets you do things *now* that will keep you safe *later*. Even if you think there will *not* be a "next time," it's safer to be prepared.



Extend Your Protection Order

If your safety is still at risk when your Order ends, you can ask the court to renew the Order.



To renew, you must file an application with the clerk before your Order ends. The judge will renew the Order if you have valid, legal reasons to renew.

You Cannot Change or Cancel Your Protection Order without the Court's Permission



Only a **judge** can change or end a protection order. If you want to change or stop the Order, you must ask the court. File papers to explain the change you want and give reasons to support the change.

The court will **not** charge you to renew or change your protection order.

You can use Guide & File to renew or change your Order

Go to *Civil Protection Order*. Then *Change, End, Renew or Reschedule Hearing*.

More Information & Support



Idaho Domestic Violence Hotline

provides emotional support and information about protecting yourself.

Call **(800) 669-3176**.

Every Idaho county has a domestic violence



program

that provides support, advocacy, temporary shelter, and other services. Find your county's program and other support services at:

<https://icdv.idaho.gov/victims/victim-services/>

Your **local court** may also offer resources and answer questions about the court process.



Anytime you are in danger, call 911.



Tell the police what's happening now. You also have the right to report a past crime no matter how long ago it happened.

Important! Asking for a protection order is *not* the same as reporting a crime.

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