

Can I Get a Peace Order?

Hi. I'm here to help you understand a Maryland peace order case.

The most important thing to know is whether you need a peace order or a protective order. I'll help you understand the difference between the two. I'll also tell you about the types of relationships that qualify for a peace order. Lastly, I'll share with you the behaviors or acts that allow you to get a peace order.

Let's begin with a fundamental definition: A peace order is a court order that requires another person to stay away from you and to refrain from contacting you. If that's what you need, then this is the video for you.

To start, let's compare peace orders versus protective orders. They are very similar, so it's easy to mix them up.

Here's the difference: You should ask for a protective order if you are married to, live with, have kids with or have a sexual relationship with the other person. You should also ask for a protective order if a sexual assault has occurred. Learn about protective orders at mdcourts.gov/dv. That web page also has a link to a brochure comparing the two types of orders.

On the other hand, peace orders, the subject of this video, apply to all other relationships. If your relationship qualifies for a protective order, you may NOT seek a peace order.

So, the first thing you need to do is think about your relationship to the person who harmed you in some way.

For peace orders, think neighbor, stranger, or co-worker. Maybe it's a friend or another student at your school. If you and the other person are not related, and you have never had an intimate or sexual relationship with each other, then you want to open a peace order case.

You also need to consider whether the behaviors you want stopped qualify for a peace order.

You may ask the court for a peace order if you have been a victim of abuse. There are lots of types of abuse. Has the other person been harassing you? Or stalking you? Did they trespass or commit malicious destruction, such as writing on your car or house? Other grounds include misuse of telephone or electronic communication, revenge porn, and visual surveillance. Examples are watching your house or tracking your movement. If you want to learn more, you can find the peace order statute at mdcourts.gov/peaceorders.

Remember, the most important thing is whether you need a peace order or a protective order. If your relationship with the other person is sexual or family-like, get a protective order. If it's not that close – if it's a neighbor, stranger, or co-worker – then ask for a peace order. Finally, peace order cases involve acts like abuse, harassment, stalking, revenge porn and more.

I hope this helps. Now, head over to mdcourts.gov/peaceorders. That's where you'll find answers to your questions and information about getting legal help in your case.