

Domestic Violence Part 3: How to File

Protective Orders are court orders that require one person to refrain from doing certain acts against another person. It's Maryland's version of a restraining order or stay-away order. The protective order process can be a dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. **Stay alert and find help at mdcourts.gov/dv or call a Maryland Court Help Center at 410-260-1392.**

Forms to File

- The forms you need are:
 - [Petition for Protection from Domestic Violence](#) (CC-DC-DV-001)
 - [Addendum – Description of Respondent](#) (CC-DC-PO-026).
- Pick up the forms from a courthouse, commissioner's office, or online at mdcourts.gov/dv.
- On the forms, the person who wants protection is called the Petitioner. The other person, or the alleged abuser, is called the Respondent.
- The form has space for you to describe the abuse. Be specific and detailed. Include information about the Respondent's access to firearms.

Address Privacy

- When you file court documents to open a case, the court requires law enforcement to provide copies of those documents – which include your contact information – to the other person.
- If safety is a concern and disclosing your address puts you at risk of further harm, ask the court to keep your contact information private. Use the form called [Request to Withhold Address CC-DC-PO-026](#).
- There is a more permanent way to keep your address private. Learn more at mdcourts.gov/addressprivacy.

Where to File

- You may file a protective order petition if you live in Maryland or if the abuse happened in Maryland.
- If courts are open, file your papers in a courthouse. If you have a current custody or divorce case with the other person, consider filing in the same courthouse where that case was heard.

Watch the Video



Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

- Courts are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. most weekdays. If courts are closed, find a District Court [Commissioner's Office](#). The Commissioner ONLY accepts temporary protective orders when courts are closed.
- If you filed your papers in court, you will have an immediate hearing. If you filed your papers in a Commissioner's Office, you will have a hearing with a judge in court a couple of days later. If a temporary order is granted you will return for a final court hearing.