



HOOD COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - PROTECTIVE ORDER INFORMATION

What is a Protective Order?

◆ A Protective Order is a civil lawsuit against another person. The Court may only grant a Protective Order for one of the following reasons:

- (1) If there have been acts of family violence and family violence is likely to recur in the future as defined in the Texas Family Code;
- (2) If a person is a victim of sexual assault as defined in the Texas Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure;
- (3) If a person is a victim of stalking as defined in the Texas Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure; or
- (4) If a person is a victim of human trafficking as defined in the Texas Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

- ◆ A Protective Order may include an applicant and children, if necessary.
- ◆ A Protective Order may prohibit the Respondent from contacting, threatening, harassing, intimidating, following, and assaulting the protected person or persons. The Order may also prohibit a person from coming within a certain distance of a person's home, school, or workplace. The Order may prohibit the Respondent from possessing a firearm.
- ◆ A Protective Order may be filed in the county where you live, in the county where the Respondent lives, or in the county where the abuse occurred.
- ◆ The duration of a Protective Order may vary depending on an Applicant's particular needs.
- ◆ If you qualify for a Protective Order, there is no charge to you. The County Attorney's Office will represent you.
- ◆ A Protective Order is enforceable in all fifty states.

How to Apply:

You may access our form online at <http://co.hood.tx.us>. Look under COUNTY ATTORNEY and the PROTECTIVE ORDER tab. You may complete the form online and either (1) print it and deliver it to our office or (2) email it to our Victim Assistance Coordinator at mbustamante@co.hood.tx.us. If you are still living with the abuser and completing this form online or at home will put you in danger, please come to our office to complete the form.

Here are the documents we have available online:

- Protective Order Information (this document)
- Protective Order Questionnaire including Incident Checklist

Once you complete the Protective Order Questionnaire and return it to our office, one of our attorneys will review it and contact you. If you qualify for a Protective Order, one of our attorneys will set up an appointment with you.

Filing the Application & Temporary Ex Parte Order:

Once we file your Application with the Court, the first official Court action is the granting of a Temporary ex parte Protective Order. Once the Respondent is personally served with a copy of the Order, the Temporary ex parte Protective Order will be effective. A Respondent who violates a Temporary ex parte Protective Order may be arrested under §25.07 Texas Penal Code.

Protective Order Hearing:

The Court will schedule a hearing on your final Protective Order. You will need to attend the hearing and provide testimony.

Questions?

See our website for more details or call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at [817-579-3216](tel:817-579-3216).

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you need emergency shelter, call the 24-hour Mission Granbury crisis hotline at 817-579-6848.