



Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney
KYLE WITT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY PROTECTION ORDER (DVTPO)

WHAT IS A DVTPO?

A DVTPO is a court document that is primarily used to help protect victims of domestic violence against further acts or threats of violence *only during the time that a criminal case is pending*. It significantly limits or prohibits the defendant from having contact with family or household members and orders the defendant to cease current behavior.

WHAT CRIMES ARE COVERED BY A DVTPO?

You may request a DVTPO if you are a family or household member (as defined in ORC 3113.31(3)) in relation to the defendant and charges have been filed on your behalf for domestic violence, a sexually oriented offense, or any other offense of violence.

Applying for a DVTPO does not guarantee that the Court will grant it, especially if it is contested by the defendant.

WILL I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

Yes. The first hearing (ex parte hearing) usually takes place during the defendant's initial court appearance (arraignment) at the Fairfield County Municipal Courthouse. You should contact your victim advocate prior to this hearing to find out if your presence is required. You may need to testify under oath in the event the defendant requests a second hearing (full hearing). During the hearing, the defendant will usually be present in the courtroom (video arraignments are done in some instances).

Prior to the hearing, you will meet with a victim advocate from the Lighthouse (domestic violence shelter), County Prosecutor's Office, or both.

DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

No. You do not need an attorney. For purposes of the DVTPO hearing, a prosecutor from the Fairfield County Prosecutor's office (if applicable) will represent your interests.

VIOLATION OF A DVTPO IS A CRIME

If the defendant violates the DVTPO, he/she could be charged with a new crime of Violation of a Protection Order. **Once it is issued by the Court, the defendant is not permitted to violate any of the terms of the DVTPO, even with your permission.** Only a Judge can change the terms and conditions of the DVTPO.

HOW LONG DOES A DVTPO LAST?

If the Court grants your request for the DVTPO, it will remain in effect until the criminal case has been resolved. Your advocate can explain how the criminal justice system works in felony cases and how this may affect your DVTPO.



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CRIMINAL PROTECTION ORDER (CRPO)

WHAT IS A CRPO?

A CRPO is a court document that is primarily used to help protect victims against further acts or threats of violence or sexually oriented offenses *only during the time that a criminal case is pending*. It significantly limits or prohibits the defendant from having contact with you and orders the defendant to cease current behavior.

WHAT CRIMES ARE COVERED BY A CRPO?

You may request a CRPO if charges have been filed on your behalf for assault, a sexually oriented offense, or any other offense of violence. The CRPO is different from a DVTPO in that the offender does not have to be a family or household member (as defined in ORC 3113.31(3)).

Applying for a CRPO does not guarantee that the Court will grant it, especially if it is contested by the defendant.

WILL I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

Yes. The first hearing (ex parte hearing) usually takes place during the defendant's initial court appearance (arraignment) at the Fairfield County Municipal Courthouse. You should contact your victim advocate prior to this hearing to find out if your presence is required. You may need to testify under oath in the event the defendant requests a second hearing (full hearing). During the hearing, the defendant will usually be present in the courtroom (video arraignments are done in some instances).

Prior to the hearing, you will meet with a victim advocate from the Lighthouse (domestic violence shelter), County Prosecutor's Office, or both.

DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

No. You do not need an attorney. For purposes of the CRPO hearing, a prosecutor from the Fairfield County Prosecutor's office (if applicable) will represent your interests.

VIOLATION OF A CRPO IS A CRIME

If the defendant violates the CRPO, he/she could be charged with a new crime of Violation of a Protection Order. **Once it is issued by the Court, the defendant is not permitted to violate any of the terms of the CRPO, even with your permission.** Only a Judge can change the terms and conditions of the CRPO.

HOW LONG DOES A CRPO LAST?

If the Court grants your request for the CRPO, it will remain in effect until the criminal case has been resolved. Your advocate can explain how the criminal justice system works in felony cases and how this may affect your CRPO.



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CIVIL STALKING OR SEXUALLY ORIENTED OFFENSE PROTECTION ORDER (SSOPO)

WHAT IS A SSOPO?

A SSOPO can be applied for as a result of incidences causing extreme mental distress, having occurred on 2 or more occasions closely related in time. A SSOPO is a court document that significantly limits or prohibits an offender from having contact with you and orders the offender to cease current behavior. This order serves to help prevent further acts or threats of a violent or sexual nature against you.

WHERE TO APPLY FOR A SSOPO?

The petition for a SSOPO must be filed with the General Division of the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas. Contact a victim advocate for assistance in obtaining a SSOPO.

- FAIRFIELD COUNTY PROSECUTOR
740-652-7560
- LANCASTER CITY LAW DIRECTOR
740-687-6616
- LIGHTHOUSE (DV SHELTER)
740-687-4423

Applying for a SSOPO does not guarantee that the Court will grant it, especially if it is contested by the offender.

DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

No. You do not need an attorney. However, it is recommended that you speak with an attorney to make sure you understand all of your legal rights. It is also important to consider that the offender may have an attorney.

REMEMBER: Attorney fees for obtaining protection orders are compensable by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Crime Victim's Compensation Program. Visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov for more information.

WILL I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

Yes. There are two hearings involved in getting a SSOPO. The first is called an ex parte hearing and the second is called a full hearing. The appropriate victim advocate will be available to attend with you, if requested.

VIOLATION OF A SSOPO IS A CRIME

If the offender violates the SSOPO, he/she could be charged with a new crime of Violation of a Protection Order. Contempt of Court charges could also be filed. **Once it is issued by the Court, the offender is not permitted to violate any of the terms of the SSOPO, even with your permission. Only the Judge can change the terms of the SSOPO.**

HOW LONG DOES THE SSOPO LAST?

The Judge decides the duration of the SSOPO. The maximum length of a SSOPO is 5 years.



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CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER (CPO)

WHAT IS A CPO?

A CPO can be applied for as a result of an incident involving another family or household member (as defined in ORC 3113.31(3)). A CPO is a court document that significantly limits or prohibits the offender from having contact with named family or household members and orders the offender to cease current behavior. This order serves to help prevent further acts or threats of violence against you.

WHERE TO APPLY FOR A CPO?

The petition for a CPO must be filed with the Domestic Relations Division of the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas. Contact a victim advocate for assistance in obtaining a CPO.

- FAIRFIELD COUNTY PROSECUTOR
740-652-7560
- LANCASTER CITY LAW DIRECTOR
740-687-6616
- LIGHTHOUSE (DV SHELTER)
740-687-4423

Applying for a CPO does not guarantee that the Court will grant it, especially if it is contested by the offender.

DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

No. You do not need an attorney. However, it is recommended that you speak with an attorney to make sure you understand all of your legal rights. It is also important to consider that the offender may have an attorney.

REMEMBER: Attorney fees for obtaining protection orders are compensable by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Crime Victim's Compensation Program. Visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov for more information.

WILL I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

Yes. There are two hearings involved in getting a CPO. The first is called an ex parte hearing and the second is called a full hearing. The appropriate victim advocate will be available to attend with you, if requested.

VIOLATION OF A CPO IS A CRIME

If the offender violates the CPO, he/she could be charged with a new crime of Violation of a Protection Order. Contempt of Court charges could also be filed. **Once it is issued by the Court, the offender is not permitted to violate any of the terms of the CPO, even with your permission. Only the Judge can change the terms of the CPO.**

HOW LONG DOES THE CPO LAST?

The Judge decides the duration of the CPO. The maximum length of a CPO is 5 years.