

How long does it take to receive and how long will it remain in effect?

Unless a later date is requested by the applicant, the court shall set a hearing date no later than 14 days after the application is filed. If after a hearing the court finds that a family violence has occurred and is likely to occur again, the court shall issue a protective order. However, if the court finds, based on the information contained in the application, that there is a clear and present danger of family violence, the court may immediately issue a temporary ex parte order. The temporary order is valid for up to 20 days. Final protective orders are effective for up to two years.

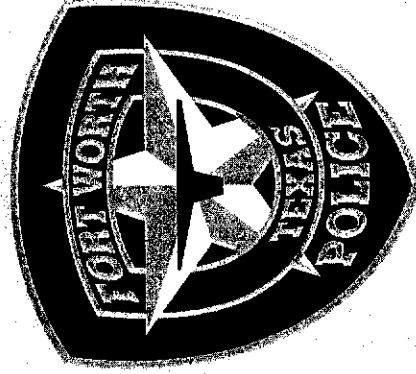
What happens if the protective order is violated?

Call the police immediately!! Remember, protective orders do not offer complete protection. No piece of paper can protect you from all instances of violence. In a violation situation officials will act to arrest the person and seek to have charges filed.

Helpful Telephone Numbers

- Emergency 911
- The Parenting Center 817-665-4357
- Women's Haven 24 hour HOTLINE 817-535-6464
- Counseling Center ..817-536-5496
- MEN'S Program817-536-3809
- Women's Center..... 817-927-4039
- Resource Center817-548-0583
- Women's Shelter - Arlington..... 817-460-5566
- Salvation Army Shelter.....
- 817-332-2495
- Rape Crisis.....817-927-2737
- MHMR 817-335-3022
- Crisis Intervention..800-645-9147
- Child Protective Services.....
-800-252-5400
- Bridge Youth Center.....
- 817-877-4663
- Child Support Enforcement.....
- 817-731-9811
- District Attorney's Office Family Violence Unit..... 817-884-3535
- Protective Orders.....817-884-1623
- First Call for Help..817-258-8100
- FWPD Victim Assistance.....
- 817-392-4390
- West Texas Legal Aid.....
- 817-336-3943

FAMILY VIOLENCE



Provided to you by:
Fort Worth
Police Department
Victim Assistance Unit
& Domestic Assault
Response Team
350 W. Belknap Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102



- Isolation from family and friends
- Pushing, kicking, slapping, shoving
- Strangling or threatening with a weapon
- Verbal attacks, name calling
- Followed, harassed or spied on

During an explosive incident.....

- If there is an argument, try to be in a place that has an exit. Avoid the bathroom, kitchen or any room that may contain weapons.
- Use your instincts and judgment. In a dangerous situation, appease the abuser if possible to keep him or her calm.
- Practice getting out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator or stairwell to use.
- Pack a bag and have it ready at a friend's or relative's house.
- Identify one or more neighbors whom you can tell about the violence, and ask them to call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends and neighbors when you need the police.
- Decide and plan where you will go if you ever have to leave home.
- Plan with your children and identify a safe place for them: a room with a lock or a neighbor's house where they can go for help. Reassure them their job is to stay safe, not to protect you.

Remember: You do not deserve to be hit or threatened

When you are preparing to leave:

- Open a checking account or savings account in your own name.
- Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents (birth

certificates, driver's license, social security cards), and extra clothes and medicines in a safe place or with someone you trust.

- Take legal papers - protective order, health/life insurance, medical records, divorce/custody papers, school records
- Get your own post office box
- Find a safe place where you and your children can go or a person who can lend you money.
- Always keep the shelter phone number and some change or a calling card with you for emergency phone calls.
- If you have pets, make arrangements for them to be cared for in a safe place.

Remember: Leaving your batterer is the time to be most cautious

Feeling safe in your own home:

- If you stay in your home, lock your windows and change the locks on your doors
- Develop a safety plan with your children for when you are not with them
- Inform you child's school, day-care, etc., about who has permission to pick up your child.
- Inform your neighbors and the landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and that they should call the police if they see him/her near your home.
- Never call the abuser from your home; he/she may find out where you live. Never tell the abuser where you live.
- Request an unlisted/unpublished number from the telephone company.

Feeling safe on the job and in public places:

- Decide whom you will inform at work of your situation. Tell the building

- security officers, and if possible provide them with a picture of your batterer.
- When at work, if possible, have someone screen your telephone calls.
- Have someone escort you to and from your car, bus or train.
- Use a variety of routes to come and go from home.

Get a protective order:

- If you or your children have been threatened or assaulted, you can request a protective order from your local district or county attorney.
- Always keep your protective order with you.
- Call the police if your abuser violates the protective order.
- Inform family members, friends, schools and neighbors that you have a protective order in effect.
- Think of alternative ways to keep safe if the police do not respond immediately.

How can a protective order help?

A protective order may prohibit a person from:

- Committing further acts of family violence;
- Harassing or threatening the victim directly or communicating the threat indirectly through another person;
- Going to or near a school or day-care center attended by a child protected under the order; or
- Possessing a firearm.

Who is eligible for a protective order?

- A protective order may be issued to:**
- A victim of family violence or dating violence as defined by the Texas Family Code; or