through the district attorney. The application must be filed in the county in which you or the alleged offender live (in a case involving a pending divorce, the application may be filed in the county where you live or in the county where the divorce is pending).

The victim should file for the order as soon as possible after the incident has occurred. If past incidents of family violence have occurred, the victim needs to provide this information to the attorney who files the protective order application.

*The applicant (victim) or an attorney representing the applicant may not be assessed a fee, cost, charge or expense by a district or county clerk or by a sheriff, constable or other public official or employee in connection with the filing, serving or entering or for any other services.

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 family violence has occurred and is likely to occur again, the court shall issue a protective order.

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.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by abusers to establish and maintain control over their partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



The Texas Attorney General website www.oag.state.tx.us is also a source of information regarding crime victims' rights and the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation program for which you may be eligible.

FORT WORTH®

Fort Worth Police Department
Victim Assistance Section
817-392-4390

11/2026

Helpful Telephone Numbers

Medical Treatment

All emergencies..... Dial 911
Cook Children's Hospital 682-885-4000
Texas Health Resources.....1-877-847-9355
John Peter Smith Hospital..... 817-702-3431

Resource List

ACH Child & Family Services.....817-335-4673
Alliance For Children.....817-335-7172
Catholic Charities.....817-534-0814
Child Protective Services 1-800-252-5400
Child Support Enforcement.....817-731-9811

Fort Worth Police
Non-emergency.....817-392-4222

Lawyer Referral Services.....817-336-4101
Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.....817-336-3943
MHMR of Tarrant County.....817-335-3022
The Parenting Center.....817-332-6348

The Archway
Counseling Center.....817-536-5496
24 Shelter Hotline 1-877-701-7233
One Safe Place.....817-916-4323
Salvation Army Shelter 817-344-1800

Tarrant County District Attorney
Protective Orders.....817-884-1623
Victim Assistance.....817-884-2740

United Way's First Call for Help.....1-877-541-7905 or 211
The Women's Center of Tarrant County
Rape Crisis.....817-927-2737
Victim Services 817-927-4039

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Provided to you by:
Fort Worth
Police Department Victim Assistance Section

Office Address:
1100 Hemphill St.
Fort Worth, TX 76104

Mailing Address:
505 W. Felix St.
Fort Worth, TX 76115

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What Is Family Violence?

Under Chapter 5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Family violence is defined as any act by one member of a family or household intended to physically harm another member, a serious threat of physical harm, the abuse of a child, or dating violence. Family violence does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

Dating violence is defined as any act by an individual intended to physically harm another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship, or a serious threat of physical harm. A dating relationship is defined as a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.

Family includes blood relatives or relatives by marriage, former spouses, parents (married or not) of the same child, foster parents and foster children, or any member or former member of a household (people living in the same house, related or not).

Love Shouldn't Hurt

Abuse takes many forms:

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

Safety Planning

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 with you for emergencies.
- If you have pets, make arrangements for them to be cared for in a safe place.

Remember: Leaving your abuser 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.
- Avoid posting or "checking in" at geographic locations on social media.

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 abuser.
- 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 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; a sexual assault victim who has been threatened with further harm; or a stalking victim.

*An adult member of a family or household may apply for a protective order on behalf of another family member, and any adult may apply for an order to protect a child from family violence. In addition, a prosecuting attorney may apply for an order to protect an alleged victim of family violence or sexual assault.

How can I get a protective order? You can apply for a protective order in person, with the help of a private attorney or legal aid service program, or