



MISSISSIPPI
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PROTECTION ORDERS 101

WHO QUALIFIES FOR A PROTECTION ORDER?

If you are a victim of interpersonal violence, you may qualify for a Protection Order if you meet any of these criteria:

*Spouse or former spouse

*Person currently living as a spouse or who formerly lived as a spouse

*Current or former dating partner

*Person related by blood or marriage and currently reside together or formerly resided together

TYPES OF PROTECTION ORDERS

EMERGENCY:

When: Upon the finding that you are in immediate and present danger of abuse

Time Frame: No longer than ten (10) days, upon which a hearing date will be scheduled

Evidence Required: No

TEMPORARY:

When: After a hearing when the abuser has been given the opportunity to be present and heard, and the Judge made a determination that abuse has occurred

Court: Municipal or Justice

Time Frame: No longer than thirty (30) days **Note:** If there are no children, this can last up to one year.

Evidence Required: Yes

FINAL:

When: After a hearing when the abuser has been given the opportunity to be present and heard, and the Judge made a determination that abuse has occurred

Court: Chancery and County

Time Frame: As long as the Judge determines is necessary. **Note:** If you were awarded temporary custody of minor children as part of the protection order, you must pursue a custody action separately within 180 days.

Evidence Required: Yes

***You do not have to receive an Emergency Protection Order to petition for a Temporary Protection Order, and you do not have to receive a Temporary Protection Order to petition for a Final Protection Order. It is possible to petition immediately for a Final Protection Order. Your course of action will depend on your situation.**

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WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1980, the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence is committed to ending domestic violence in our state. In collaboration with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services and Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation, the Coalition provides legal services to victims of interpersonal violence associated with the shelter programs, such as family law matters and other non-tort legal services in a civil context.



WHAT WE DO

The Coalition can provide assistance to victims of interpersonal violence, such as domestic violence and sexual assault, in many ways. Below is a list of some of the services for which we can provide help:

- Emergency legal assistance such as restraining or protective orders
- Emergency custody/visitation rights
- Housing matters
- Intervention with creditors, law enforcement and other entities on behalf of victim's identity theft or financial fraud
- Intervention with administrative agencies, schools/colleges and any other organization
- Motion to vacate, expunge a conviction or a similar action as a result of victimization

WHERE TO GO

Please contact us if you or someone you know is a victim of interpersonal violence and in need of legal services.

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