



# Protection Orders

Before or After the Emergency

**1-866-223-7775**  
or call your local RCMP



## What can I do before or after the emergency?

The *Protection Against Family Violence Act* can help victims in situations where there is family violence but no immediate danger. You can get this help by applying for a protection order. These orders can last a long time and can:

- order the abusive person to stay away from you and your children;
- allow you to stay in your home without the abusive person being there;
- order the abusive person to take counselling;
- order the abusive person to pay for any damages that were a result of their violent behaviour.

A lawyer can help you apply for this type of order. It usually takes a few weeks to get a protection order.

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It is important to know that in an emergency, victims of family violence can apply for emergency protection orders (EPO) under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*. EPOs are short-term orders that you can get quickly, and they can do many of the things that protection orders can do. For more information on EPOs, call **1-866-223-7775** or your local RCMP.

In some cases it may make sense to apply for an EPO and then apply for a protection order. The emergency protection order will address the emergency while the protection order can be part of a long-term safety plan.

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## What's the difference between emergency protection orders and protection orders?

Emergency protection orders protect families or individuals in an emergency.

This means that there is no time to go to court or get a lawyer. Emergency protection orders are for serious situations when something needs to be done right away to protect the family or person from immediate harm.

Protection orders protect families or individuals from family violence when there is more time to make safety plans and take action. For example, you may not be at immediate risk because you have an emergency protection order in place, or the abusive person may be out of town or in jail.

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Some differences between Protection and Emergency Protection Orders:

### Protection Order

### Emergency Protection Order

Does <b>not need</b> to be an emergency to apply	There <b>must be</b> an emergency
You <b>need a lawyer</b>	You <b>don't need a lawyer</b>
Provides <b>long-term protection</b>	Provides <b>short-term protection</b>
Takes a few weeks to get	Takes a few hours to get
Abuser <b>will know</b> about the application	Abuser usually <b>doesn't know</b> the application is being made
<b>Can</b> order abuser to get counselling or pay for damages	<b>Can not</b> order abuser to get counselling or pay for damages

If this is an emergency and you are in immediate danger, call the RCMP.

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## What is family violence?

Family violence is a pattern of behaviour used to gain power and control over another person through fear and intimidation. Family violence happens when one person believes they have the right to control another. These behaviours include:

- **Physical abuse:** injuring you or family members;
- **Psychological abuse:** threatening you or members of your family, destroying your belongings or making you afraid for your safety;
- **Emotional abuse:** a pattern of treating a person in a way that wears down their confidence and self-esteem;

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- **Financial abuse:** forcing you or a family member to give up money or things;
- **Forcible confinement:** not letting you or an adult family member come and go freely; and
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing you to do something sexual you don't want to do.

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## Who can get this protection?

Anyone who is living or has lived in a family relationship with the abusive person, or who has had a child with the abusive person, can apply for a protection order. This can include:

- Either the man or the woman;
- Children;
- Grandparents;
- Aunts, uncles, or cousins; or
- People in a same-sex relationship.

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## How do you apply for this protection?

Start by calling one of these people:

■ Your local court worker:

■ Yellowknife: 873-7450

■ **Behchokò**: 392-6386

■ Fort Good Hope: 598-2762

■ Fort McPherson: 952-2756

■ Fort Simpson: 695-7315

■ Hay River: 874-2475

■ Ulukhaktok: 396-8002

■ Inuvik: 777-2030

■ Tuktoyaktuk: 977-2260

■ Legal Aid: 873-7450 (Collect calls accepted)

■ Your lawyer

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Tell the person that you want to apply for a protection order.

If you are afraid of the violent person finding out that you are applying for a protection order, tell your lawyer.

Remember, protection orders are for situations that are not emergencies. If this is an emergency and you are in immediate danger, call the RCMP.

## What if I don't want the order anymore?

Protection Orders are intended as a long-term solution. While you or the violent person can apply to have the order removed or changed at any time, this takes some time.

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## How do I get more information about protection orders?

Call your local court worker, legal aid, or your lawyer to get more information about how a protection order may help you. For support and information about family violence in general, call your local shelter, community health team, or social worker; or call Alison McAteer House toll-free at **1-866-223-7775**.

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