

How to apply for a protection order

A Domestic Violence Order is an order made by the court to stop threats or acts of domestic and family violence.

Police, friends or family members can apply for an order on your behalf.

Or you can apply yourself.

Police can also apply for a Temporary Protection Order to provide you protection until a longer order can be made by the court.

When police have made the application for a Protection Order, a police prosecutor will deal with the matter in court.

An application for a Domestic Violence Order can be submitted by visiting a Magistrates Court registry office.

You can also apply using the form on the Queensland Courts website. The application is a legal document.

We advise you to seek legal advice to make sure a Protection Order is correctly tailored to your safety needs.

There are a number of legal services that can help you. These are listed on the Queensland Courts website.

Answering all questions on the form is important.

You'll need to describe what domestic violence has occurred, including any threatening behaviour, and when and where it occurred.

Provide as much detail as you can including dates if you can remember them. Extra pages can be attached to your application.

The form asks if you want your children named on the Protection Order - so that if the order is made, they can also be protected by the conditions on the order.

If you feel you need protection as soon as possible, tell the registry staff when you are filing your application.

You or your lawyer can ask for a Temporary Protection Order, which can be considered by the court urgently and often on the same day.

If you are not asking for a Temporary Protection Order, the registrar will allocate the earliest available court date, allowing time for the Respondent to be given the application.

How to apply for a protection order - Transcript Video

The date appears on the application and shows when you both must attend court. The police will give the application and any Temporary Protection Order to the respondent.

If a Temporary Protection Order has been made, they will explain what the order means to the respondent.

When in court, if the Respondent tells the court they disagree with the order being made, the magistrate will need to set a new date for a final hearing. This is to decide whether to grant a final Protection Order.

If the Respondent does not come to court an order can still be made.

Protection Orders and Temporary Protection Orders cannot be enforced by police until the Respondent has been notified about the order.

Remember at any time you feel in danger, you can call the police on triple zero.