

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE FILING A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER (TPO)

TERMS TO KNOW

- The Petitioner is the person who is seeking a Protective Order
- The Respondent is the person who the petition is filed against
- Ex-Parte – Hearing where the Judge hears ONLY the Petitioner's (YOUR) side
- The Respondent MUST live in Jackson Co. in order to file a TPO in Jackson Co.
- The Respondent MUST live in Barrow Co in order to file a TPO in Barrow Co.
- The Petitioner must be at least 18 years old to apply for a TPO
- The Respondent must be at least 18 years of age
- THE PETITIONER MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE ADDRESS FOR RESPONDENT

GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. Determine which type of protective order you are seeking of the 3 types listed below:

Family Violence – You MUST have one of the following relationships with Respondent and an act of family violence, the threat of violence or a history of violence must be present:

- Present or past spouses (meaning you are or were married)
- Parents of the same child/ren
- Persons who used to live in the same household
- Persons currently living in the same household
- Foster parent and foster child
- Stepparent and stepchild

Stalking – For use when you do not have any of the above relationships and the Respondent has committed acts of stalking.

Dating Violence – for use when one of the following is true:

- Either of you are currently pregnant with the other's child; or
- You and the abuser have had a dating relationship within the last 12 months

2. Fill out the appropriate petition and notify the Clerk of Court staff when you have completed the form. They will notarize your Verification Form (which requires your I.D.)

3. In Jackson County cases, a Deputy will bring you to a courtroom when a Judge is available. In Barrow County cases, the Clerk's staff will notify the Judge's office and will send the Petitioner to the Judge's office to wait for an available judge. Once Judge is available, the Judge's office will contact a deputy and direct Petitioner to the designated Courtroom.

4. If your petition is granted, you will go back to the Clerk's office to get a stamped "filed" copy of the order and give the Clerk's office information on getting the Respondent served by a deputy. You will have your second hearing within 30 days and the court date will be on the first page of the order.