

SAFETY OPTIONS

WARNING: VIOLENCE OFTEN GETS WORSE WHEN YOU TRY TO LEAVE OR SHOW SIGNS OF INDEPENDENCE

TAKE SPECIAL CARE

When you are in a violent relationship, here are some options to keep in mind:

- Try to figure out warning signs that come before an assault (i.e., drinking, drugs, payday, a bad day at work, exam time, etc.).
- Are there physical signs? Clenched fist, threats, a red face, throwing things, etc.
- Try to get out or get help *before* the violence begins.
- Are there weapons in the house? Can you remove them or lock them up?
- Can you signal the neighbors?
- How will you get out of the house? Set a routine of leaving the residence for a short period of time for general errands like getting the mail, laundry, garbage.
- Take ID and documents - driver's license, divorce decree, custody papers, student ID, or other important papers.

WHAT DO DO IF THERE IS A VIOLATION

If the respondent violates the PPO, immediately call the police or 911. When police arrive, they may arrest the respondent for violating the PPO. To request a violation hearing when no arrest is made, contact the respective Circuit Court.

Additional Resources:

- GVSU Police
(616)331-3255
- GVSU Counseling Center
(616)331-3266
- YMCA Domestic Violence Hotline
(616)451-2744 (24 hours)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1(800)799-SAFE (7233)
- Resilience (Center for Women in Transition)
1(800)848-5991 (24 hours)
- Legal Aid
lawestmi.org
- Ottawa County 20th Circuit Court
(616)846-8315
- Kent County 17th Circuit Court
(616)632-5071
- Ottawa County Victim Assistance Unit
(616)846-8338
- Kent County Victim Services Unit
(616)632-6221

GVSU CENTER FOR WOMEN & GENDER EQUITY

1201 Kirkhof Center
1 Campus Dr, Allendale, MI 49401
(616)331-2748
www.gvsu.edu/cwge

PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

For Survivors of Interpersonal Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and/or Stalking



PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

Personal Protection Orders (PPOs) are orders of the Circuit Court that forbid or require a person to do something.

The person filing the PPO is the ***petitioner***, and the person whom a PPO is filed against is the ***respondent***.

A PPO may **order** the respondent **not** to:

- Enter your property
- Assault, attack, beat or wound you
- Threaten to kill or physically harm you
- Remove children from you if you have legal custody
- Interfere at your place of employment
- Interfere with your efforts to remove your children or personal property
- Contact you by telephone or other electronic means
- Send you mail (including e-mail)
- Purchase or possess a firearm

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING A PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDER

- Maximum 93 days in jail and/or
- Maximum \$500 fine

2 TYPES OF PPOS

Restraining PPO

(For survivors of dating or domestic violence)

To qualify for a Restraining PPO, you must establish one of the following *relationships* with the respondent:

- A current or former spouse
- A current or former dating relationship
- Reside or resided in the same household
- A child in common

Stalking PPO

(For survivors of stalking)

To qualify for a Stalking PPO, you are not required to show a relationship if the respondent has shown:

- A pattern of behavior including *two* separate stalking incidents
- Cause for a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested
- Action that actually causes that person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested

For EITHER order, you must also establish:

- *Reasonable cause to believe* the respondent may commit one or more of the behaviors listed

HOW TO FILE A PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDER

20th Circuit Court: (616)846-8320

miottawa.org/Departments/CountyClerk/CourtRecords/PPO.htm

17th Circuit Court: (616)632-5071

accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/ppo.htm

Complete the PPO forms, providing a detailed statement including:

- Date(s), time(s) and location(s) of incidents
- Injury details
- Witness names

File the order with the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office will then assign a judge to your case.

Return to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office to pick up the order. The Clerk can give an idea of when the order will be ready.

Arrange for prompt service of the order.

File the proof of service form with the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Be sure to have the Proof of Service notarized if needed.

Helpful Information to Include

- A police report
- A doctor's report
- Photos of injuries or destroyed property
- Custody, support and/or visitation orders
- Divorce decree
- Affidavits from witnesses