



Protection Orders

Nature of Proceeding

Civil, under [RCW 26.50](#)

Who may obtain an order?

A person who fears violence from a "family or household member (RCW 26.50.110)", or who has been the victim of physical harm or fears imminent physical harm, or stalking from a "family or household member", (includes [dating relationships](#)). Minors under age of 16 with parent or guardian.

Jurisdiction

Telephonic hearings available in limited circumstances. EPO-- District, Municipal, or Superior Court. PO--limited to Superior Court if Superior Court has family law action pending, or if case involves children or order to vacate home.

Cost to Petitioner

No filing or service fees.

How does the respondent receive notice?

Notice served on the respondent. Notice by certified mail, or publication authorized in limited circumstances.

Respondent Consequences if order is knowingly violated

Mandatory arrest for violating restraint and exclusion provisions. Possible criminal charges or contempt. Class C felony if assault or reckless endangerment, otherwise Gross Misdemeanor.

Maximum duration of order

- PO--Designated by court, one year, or permanent.
- EPO--14 days with personal service.
- 24 days certified mail or with service by publication.