

Orders for Protection

There are three types of restraining orders or protective orders. People often use the terms interchangeably, which can be confusing. The three types are: Order for Protection, Harassment Restraining Order, and Domestic Abuse No Contact Order.

An Order for Protection (or OFP) and a Harassment Restraining Order (or HRO) are civil orders that a victim requests and require court approval. To obtain one, a victim must file a petition explaining to the court why they need protection. A hearing is required in Anoka County and the person who requests the protective order must appear for the judge to issue either type. Either of these protective orders can be issued for up to two years. The victim can request that the judge dismiss an existing order at any time.

A Domestic Abuse No Contact Order, commonly called a DANCO, is an order issued in a domestic abuse related criminal case. A judge can issue this type of order without a victim's request, typically at the first court appearance. The DANCO prevents the defendant from having any contact with the victim. The length of a DANCO varies, though it usually lasts the length of the criminal case and can extend through probation.

Listed below you can find links with more information and eligibility requirements for the Order for Protection and the Harassment Restraining Order.