

**Abused Women Services-Court Advocacy Program**  
**Frequently asked Questions when obtaining an Order of Protection**

**How do I get an Order of Protection?**

*The process begins at 201 Poplar LL 21 Citizens Dispute Office, Lower Level.*

**What number do I call for an Order of Protection?**

*The number for Citizen Dispute is 545-2520.*

**What do I need to bring**

*Bring a photo identification, name of respondent and address where (s)he can be served.*

**Do I have to pay to file?**

*As a petitioner for an Order of Protection you do not have to pay for filing or court costs related to your case.*

**Do I need an Attorney?**

*You do not need to retain an attorney for your hearing date. If you have the means to pay for an attorney you may want to call your advocate for referrals.*

**Do I put my child/children on the O.P?**

*If your child has been a victim of violence or if you are fearful that there is future possibility of violence you may want to add your children to your petition.*

**What is the Ex-Parte Order of Protection?**

*The Ex-Parte order of protection is a legal document ordered by the court that helps you send a legal message to the abuser that you want them to stay away.*

**How do I find out if the respondent was served?**

*You can call the Civil Division of the Sheriff Dept @ 379-7400 to be notified if the respondent had been served.*

**What should I wear to court?**

*Wear what you feel comfortable in. Think of what you would wear to a job interview. If you do not have anything to wear call your advocate.*

**What type of evidence do I need for my hearing?**

*Witnesses, police reports, audio/video recordings and pictures are all types of evidence you may have. Your advocate can help you get copies of the police reports.*

**What if I can not be present to my court date because of illness?**

*Call your advocate! (YWCA 458-2550)*

**What can I do if my abuser violates the Ex Parte Order of Protection?**

*Call the police! If the abuser is not arrested on the scene: Call the YWCA court advocate at 901-458-2550, Come to 201 Poplar Citizen Dispute and file for a warrant.*

**Frequently Asked Questions for Order of Protection Hearing Date**

**Where do I go for the hearing? What time?**

*201 Poplar, Second floor, Div 25 9:00 am*

**Can I bring my child?**

*There are technically no restrictions prohibiting you to bring your child, however there is no child care available and it may be unpleasant for the child to see the respondent. If you can, find appropriate child care or bring someone with you who may be able to care for your child while you wait. Bring snacks and items to entertain the child because you may be waiting most of the morning and afternoon.*

**What if the Respondent does not show up?**

*If (s)he was served with the Ex-parte paperwork and does not show, your order of Protection will be granted without a hearing. If (s)he was not served yet you can have the hearing reset for another date to give more time for services.*

**Do I have to pay Court Costs if the respondent does not show up?**

*No, you do not have to pay any court costs as a petitioner for an Order of Protection*

**What if I see the Respondent in the lobby and s/he approaches me?**

*If (s)he has been served his paperwork (s)he is in violation of his ex-parte. For your safety go to one of the deputies and let them know.*

**Will (s)he be beside me during the hearing?**

*You will be seated at the same table but separated by chairs. You do not have to speak directly to the respondent. Deputies are also posted in the courtroom.*

**Do I have to explain what happened to me in front of other people?**

*Yes, it is an open court.*

**What if my petition was not granted?**

*Usually if an Order of Protection is not granted it is because the burden of proof was not made. Continue to follow your safety plan. Call the police if you are in a threatening situation, keep a paper trail and come back to re file if any new incidents occur.*

**What if my ex-parte order of protection was extended and set for status?**

*This means that no final ruling for your Order of Protection was made. Usually you will not have another hearing. You will have to return to court for a final ruling. Continue to follow your safety plan. Call the police if you are in a threatening situation, keep a paper trail and come back to re file if any new incidents occur. If your petition is not granted you have the right to appeal the ruling.*