What is a T.P.O.?

A T.P.O. is a Temporary Protective Order. It is a court order signed by a judge which prohibits the person who has abused you from harrassing, harming, contacting, or mistreating you.

Additionally, a T.P.O. may include specific instructions preventing your abuser from coming within a specified distance from your home, work, or child's school/daycare.

A T.P.O. may also require the abuser to leave the home of the victim, grant temporary custody of children, and make provisions for temporary child support payments.

Who is Eligible for a T.P.O.?

Under the Georgia Family Violence Act, a person may seek a Temporary Protective Order against an abuser who is:

- Current or former spouse
- The other parent of the child
- Someone who currently lives with you, or who has formerly lives with you
- Your parent, step-parent, or foster parent
- Your child, step-child, or foster child

To qualify, one or more of the following acts must have been committed against you:

- Any Felony violation
- Simple Assault
- Simple Battery
- Battery
- Criminal Damage to Property
- Unlawful Restraint

How Do I Obtain a Stalking T.P.O.?

Any person who is not a minor may seek a temporary protective order by filing a petition in the Superior Court Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. No specific relationship between the parties is required. Any person who is not a minor may also seek relief on behalf of a minor by filing a petition.

Teen Dating Violence

Teens who are in an abusive relationship may have a difficult time getting help for the following reasons:

- Fear of hurting their dating partners feelings
- Fear that the friend they confide in will tell them to end the relationship
- Fear of losing independence from their parents
- Fear that people will not understand, will blame them, or won't believe what's happened
- Not knowing how or where to get help
- Fear of retaliation from the abusive dating partner
- Not knowing how to leave or how to improve the situation
- Embarrassment
- Fear of being judged
- Not trusting that what is said will be kept confidential
- Not wanting to admit it is a real problem

Should I File a Report?

Any citizen can file a report with the police department. All citizens are encouraged to document all incidents of domestic violence and abuse. Only by reporting can we follow up with your case. Often you will need an official report to file for a T.P.O.

We are committed to providing a safe living environment for our citizens. If you are a victim or a witness to a crime or abuse, please report it immediately. Our lobby is open 24-hours. You can also report crimes anonymously by calling or emailing:

- 770-476-4151
- crimetip@duluthpd.com
- drugtip@duluthpd.com

FAMILY VIOLENCE & CRIME VICTIM INFORMATION

Responding Officer: _____

Case Number: _____

Important Numbers

Duluth Police Department
770-476-4151
Gwinnett Police Department
770-513-5700
Gwinnett Sheriff Office
770-619-6500
Gwinnett DFACS
678-518-5500
Gwinnett District Attorney
770-822-8400
Gwinnett Victim/Witness
770-822-8444
Gwinnett Clerk of Courts
770-822-8100
Gwinnett Probate Court
770-822-8350
Rainbow Village
770-497-1888
Family Promise Homeless
678-376-8950
Gwinnett Coalitions Homeless
770-995-3339
Partnership Against Domestic Violence
404-870-9600
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
404-244-2600
Federal Bureau of Investigation
770-216-3000
Georgia Council on Child Abuse
800-338-6745
Georgia Council on Elder Abuse
404-657-5728
Piedmont Rape Crisis Center
770-586-5423

Emergency Checklist

What to take with you when you leave:

Identification

- Drivers License
- Birth Certificate
- Children's Birth Certificate
- Social Security Cards
- Passport

Financial

- Money and/or credit card (in your name)
- Checking and/or saving account books

Legal Papers

- Protective Order (Copies in multiple locations)
- Lease, rental agreement or house deed
- Car Registration and Insurance papers
- Health and Life Insurance policies
- Medical Records for you and your children
- School Records
- Work permits/Green Card/Visa
- Passport
- Divorce or Custody papers
- Marriage License

Other

- Medications
- House and Car keys
- Valuable jewelry
- Address book
- Pictures and sentimental items
- Clothes for yourself and children
- Fully charged cell phone

Plan ahead...hide copies of all these in a safe place or with someone you trust in the event you have to leave quickly.

What happens after I file a report?

Once a report is file it will take 2-3 days for approval. After approval it is available to be picked up.

Your case may be assigned to a detective for follow up investigation. A detective will be in contact with you. It is important to give the responding office good contact information.

You can contact the office that took your report with any further questions or to add information to your report.

If charges are filed, you will be notified of the court date and in some circumstances be called to testify.

If an arrest is made, there is the possibility of pre-trial release of the accused.

For any questions about the process call:
770-476-4151

What if they come back?

If the abuser or crime suspect returns, then call 911 immediately. Attempt to get to a safe location and wait for police to arrive.

Save phone logs or text messages that you receive. *They can be very important evidence.*

Crime Victims Bill of Rights

If you are the victim, or a family member of a victim, of one or more of the following types of crimes:

- Serious Injury by Vehicle
- Reckless Conduct
- Feticide by Vehicle
- Homicide by Vehicle
- False Imprisonment
- Kidnapping
- Cruelty to Children
- Sexual Battery
- Burglary
- Homicide
- Assault/Battery & Feticide
- Armed Robbery
- Stalking
- Arson
- Sexual Exploitation of a Child

...Then you are entitled to know the following:

1. It is possible that the accused may be released from custody prior to trial;

2. That you, as a victim, have certain rights during various stages of the criminal justice process;

3. Additional information about your rights can be obtained by contact the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 404-559-4949;

4. You may be eligible for monetary compensation for certain out of pocket expenses (from the *State Crime Victims Compensation Fund*) incurred as a result of your victimization;

5. You may contact the HODAC Crime Victims Assistance Helpline at 800-338-6745 for assistance or clarification of your rights;

6. You must be notified by the investigation law enforcement agency of the accused arrest; and

7. You must provide the investigation law enforcement agency with your current address and phone number if you wish to be contacted.