

What You Need to Know About Your Order of Protection



Important Things to Know

- What if the person that asked for the order wants to change or end the order? She/he has to go to court and ask the judge. The order can only be changed or ended by a judge!
- Not obeying the order is a crime. You can go to jail for up to 1 year each time you don't obey the order.
- The Metro Police Department **must** arrest someone who ignores a no contact Order.
- If you call, send mail, or do anything else that violates a no contact Order, the Metro Police or District Attorney's office will file criminal charges against you.
- If you are found guilty of violating an Order of Protection you can be:
 - ◆ kept out of public housing
 - ◆ turned down for a job in Child Protective Services
 - ◆ turned down for citizenship
 - ◆ deported if you are not a citizen



How to avoid problems

- Don't go places where you know the person goes.
- Leave a building, restaurant, store or place if you realize that the person is there.
- If the person calls you, hang up the phone right away.
- Don't send letters, e-mails, texts or faxes to the person. If they send them to you, don't answer.
- Stay away from the person's family, friends and neighbors.
- Don't argue or confront the person's family or friends. Walk away!
- Don't open the door until you know who is there. If the person comes to your house, **DO NOT** let him/her in.



Examples of what to do

- If the person walks towards you on the street, cross the street and go a different way.
- If you are eating in a restaurant and the person walks in, pay the bill and leave.

- If you are at the movies and the person walks in, get up and leave.
- If the person calls and wants you to come over or work things out, **don't go**. Hang up the phone as soon as you know who it is. Don't violate the order by talking to the person.
- If the person called you and you can tell me what he/she said, **YOU** have violated the order. Always hang up as soon as you hear the person's voice.
- If the person sends you e-mail, and you answer it, **YOU** have violated the order. Don't send or answer e-mails, letters or faxes from the person.
- What if you are told you can have contact because the Order was changed or ended? **Check with the court that issued the order first**. Don't have any contact with



the other person until the court tells you it is OK. **OR** you get a court paper saying the Order is changed or ended.

The Order of Protection is a judge's order. The person who asked for the order can **NOT** say it is over or that the other person can have contact. Only a judge can change the Order. If the Order says **no contact**, no contact means:



- You cannot live with the person listed in the order.

- No physical contact — You must stay so many feet/yards away from the person and any children included in the order.
- No phone calls or texts
- No letters, no e-mails, no faxes
- No flowers
- No boxes of candy
- No presents of any kind
- No messages through friends, relatives, neighbors or other people.
- No contacting the person in any other way.



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NOTE: This pamphlet cannot take the place of legal advice. Each case is different and needs individual attention.

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