

Domestic Personal Protection Orders

Obtaining a PPO & Defending Against Objections

If you get a Domestic Personal Protection Order (PPO) and the other party objects, you have the legal burden to address those objections. Here are some basics about the process and responding to objections.

1

What is a Domestic Personal Protection Order?

- A PPO is meant to keep you safe from violence and abuse. It is a court order for yourself against someone you have, or used to have, a “domestic relationship” with. Examples: current or former spouse, your child’s other parent, or someone you live(d) with or dated.
- A court will order a domestic PPO when you (the “petitioner”) **show that you have a “reasonable fear”** of the person you are seeking the order against (the “respondent”). There does not need to be past violence.
- When you submit a PPO petition, a judge will usually decide on it without a hearing (or “ex parte”). If granted, your PPO takes effect right away. But you still must 1) ensure the respondent is served with a copy and 2) file “proof of service” with the court.
- If granted, a PPO can be in effect for at least six months. If you wish to extend a PPO, you must file a request for an extension before the PPO expires.

2

How do you apply for a PPO?

- Online: use the www.MichiganLegalHelp.org website.
- Online: your county court system may offer an online PPO petition service.
- In person: go to your county courthouse.

3

Can the other party object?

- **Yes.** After the respondent is served, they have 14 days to ask for the PPO to be modified or terminated. The respondent might get more than 14 days if they show good cause for a delay.
- A court will schedule a hearing. **The legal burden is on you**, the petitioner, to make your case. You may be allowed to provide documentation, photographs, or witnesses.
- The court can keep the PPO in place, terminate it, modify its details, or schedule your case for a more in-depth (“evidentiary”) hearing.

If you or a loved one believe you are in immediate danger of violence, call 911.