

## Orders of Protection

The McHenry County Circuit Clerk's Office provides customized forms available at [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org) to assist parties interested in obtaining an order of protection. This website was designed by the DuPage County Circuit Clerk's Office and is used in numerous Illinois counties to assist residents in the process of obtaining protection orders.

There are 4 types of Protection Orders available in Illinois. Answering the questions on [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org) will assist you in determining which type of Order you qualify for, based on your situation and Illinois statutes.

1. **Order of Protection** — If the Respondent is a family or household member, you may qualify for an Order of Protection.
2. **Civil No Contact Order** — If there was sexual conduct with the Respondent, you may qualify for a Civil No Contact Order.
3. **Stalking No Contact Order** — If there were at least 2 instances of stalking, you may qualify for a Stalking No Contact Order.
4. **Firearm Restraining Order** — If you feel the Respondent poses a danger to themselves or others by having access to firearms or the ability to purchase or receive firearms, you may qualify for a Firearm Restraining Order.

There are **no fees** charged for obtaining any type of Protection Order, or for the service of that Order.

### Minimum Requirements

If you are thinking about getting an Order of Protection in McHenry County, review the checklist on the back of this brochure to find out if you meet the basic requirements for this kind of case. If you are not sure about some of these questions, call the 24-hour Turning Point hotline at (815)338-8081 to talk to an advocate, or go online to [www.turnpt.org](http://www.turnpt.org).

### 1. Relationship to the Respondent

The person needing protection (this is probably you) is called the "**Petitioner.**"  
The "**Respondent**" is the person that you want protection from.

#### How are you related to the Respondent?

- We are married, or used to be married (husband, wife, spouse).
- We are dating each other, or we used to date (boyfriend, girlfriend, intimate partner).
- We have a child together.
- We are family members (parent, child, sibling, step-parent, step-child, or other family relationship).
- We live together, or we used to live together (roommate, housemate, live-in partner).
- I have a disability, and the Respondent is my caregiver (personal assistant).

**You must be able to check at least one of these boxes.** An Order of Protection only covers these kinds of domestic relationships. If you are not related to the Respondent in any of these ways, then you can't get an Order of Protection. However, you may be able to get a different kind of civil order. They may be able to help you get a Civil No Contact Order or a Stalking No Contact Order. For other situations, you may contact an attorney to find out if you can get a Civil Restraining Order.

### 2. Recent Incident of Abuse or Threat

Orders of Protection are meant to prevent future abuse. Abuse can be physical or sexual (grabbing, pushing, hitting, kicking, choking, forcing you to do things you do not want to do), verbal or harassing (threats to hurt you, repeated phone calls or text messages), stalking (following you) or other similar behaviors. It is okay if you have not called the police. You may still be able to get an Order of Protection. There are a few things that the judge will look for. **Which of these are true for you right now?**

- The Respondent has done something abusive (physical, verbal, harassing or stalking).
- This abuse happened within the past 3 days (72 hours) or so.
- The Respondent has history of abuse toward you or other people.
- The abuse is getting worse, or you think the abuse would get worse if the Respondent knew you were trying to get an Order of Protection.

**You must be able to check most, if not all, of these boxes.** An Order of Protection is given when something abusive is happening right now. If you are not sure whether what happened to you is abuse, or if the abuse happened more than 3 days ago, you may want to talk to an advocate or lawyer first.

### 3. Location

It is important to go to the right courthouse for Orders of Protection. **Which of these are true for you?**

- I (the Petitioner) live in McHenry County.
- The Respondent (the person you want protection from) lives in McHenry County.
- The abuse happened in McHenry County.
- I (the Petitioner) fled to McHenry County for my safety, and I am living here for right now to stay safe.

**You must be able to check at least one (1) of these boxes.** If none of these are true for you, then you will need to get your Order of Protection in a different county. Usually, it is best to go to the courthouse in the county where you live, or where the abuse happened.

# Orders of Protection

Orders of Protection, Civil No Contact Orders, Stalking No Contact Orders, Firearms Restraining Orders

[www.IllinoisProtectionOrder.org](http://www.IllinoisProtectionOrder.org)



## RECEIPT NUMBER

[www.IllinoisProtectionOrder.org](http://www.IllinoisProtectionOrder.org)

McHenry County Circuit Clerk

2200 N Seminary Ave—Room 353

Woodstock, IL 60098

(815) 334-4310

Hours: Monday—Friday (except Court Holidays)

Turning Point - Domestic Violence Agency

(Assists with Orders of Protection only.)

2200 N Seminary Ave—Room 353

Woodstock, IL 60098

(815) 338-8081

Available 24 hours

## Do you need help filing your Petition?

If you need assistance with completing the paperwork to obtain an Order of Protection, the following local agencies can help:

### Turning Point —

#### Domestic Violence Agency

(815) 338-8081 (24 hours)

#### McHenry County Circuit Clerk's Office

(815) 334-4310

Monday-Friday 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Orders of Protection are filed in the **McHenry County Circuit Clerk's Office** located in **Room 353** on the 3rd floor of the McHenry County Government Center. Orders of Protection can also be completed remotely through [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org). Please call Turning Point or the Circuit Clerk's Office for more information.

## Steps for Obtaining a Protection Order

1. Go to [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org) and follow the steps to complete your petition for a protection order. (*Turning Point advocates may assist in the filing of Orders of Protection, but not Civil No Contact Orders or Stalking No Contact Orders. Please call their office for assistance.*) The website will give you a "receipt number" which will allow you to save your petition and return to it as many times as necessary. Print your confirmation page, or make note of your "receipt number" on the front of this brochure, which will assist Circuit Clerk staff in locating your petition.

2. Go to [www.McHenryCircuitClerk.org](http://www.McHenryCircuitClerk.org) to complete the following additional forms where applicable to bring with you to the Circuit Clerk's Office:

- **LEADS Entry Guide** – Required to be completed for all protection orders, used to provide information to law enforcement if your protection order is granted.
- **Certificate: Child Custody Proceeding** – Required by the Court to be completed if there are any children to be protected by the protection order.
- **Request for Notice to Schools and/or Daycare Facilities** – Required if you will be requesting that your children's school and/or daycare facility be notified of the protection order.

3. Go to the McHenry County Government Center, where **Turning Point** advocates are located in **Room 356** to assist you in filing your Petition. With your "receipt number," advocates can access your petition and help you complete it.

4. If you do not need Turning Point's assistance (as is the case with Civil No Contact Orders, Stalking No Contact Orders, and Firearm Restraining Orders), once your petition is completed, go to the **McHenry County Circuit Clerk's Office** in **Room 353** on the third floor of the McHenry County Government Center. You will be asked to sign your name on your Petition. The Petition will now be considered filed, a case number will be assigned, and the information will be forwarded to a judge for review. **If the judge approves your petition, you will be granted a protection order. The judge may also either deny your petition or set it for a future hearing date.**

5. Return to the **Circuit Clerk's Office** in **Room 353** to receive free copies of your Order. Bring the certified copies to the **Sheriff's Dept—Civil Process Division**, on the second floor of the Government Center in **Room 262**, to have your Order served by Law Enforcement.

## Remote Protection Orders

You are also able to complete the process for obtaining an **Order of Protection remotely**, with the ability to meet with a judge via Zoom. (Please download the Zoom app onto your device **before** your remote appearance.)

1. Go to [www.illinoisprotectionorder.org](http://www.illinoisprotectionorder.org), and follow the steps to complete your petition for a protection order. (*Turning Point advocates may assist in the filing of Orders of Protection, but not Civil No Contact Orders or Stalking No Contact Orders. Please call their office for assistance.*) Print your confirmation from the website, or make note of your "receipt number" on the front of this brochure, which will assist Circuit Clerk staff in locating your petition.

2. If you have completed filing your petition for **Order of Protection** with Turning Point's assistance, you will receive a call from the Circuit Clerk's office, to obtain your electronic signature on your petition.

3. If you have completed filing for a **Civil No Contact Order**, a **Stalking No Contact Order**, or a **Firearm Restraining Order**, please contact the Circuit Clerk's Office for further processing and to electronically sign your petition.

4. After signing your petition, you will be directed to go to [www.McHenryCircuitClerk.org](http://www.McHenryCircuitClerk.org), to click on the Orders of Protection button, followed by the Zoom Link for the Order of Protection courtroom. Join the meeting, and wait for a judge to appear to speak to you about your petition. Be sure to enable both audio and video capabilities before entering the Zoom courtroom.

5. **If the judge approves your petition, you will be granted a protection order. The judge may also either deny your petition or set it for a future hearing date.** If the judge grants your petition, the Circuit Clerk will complete the processing of your protection order. You will be emailed a copy of the Order, signed by the judge. The Circuit Clerk will forward the protection order to the Sheriff's Department—Civil Process for service.