

How Do I Get A Restraining Order?

To get a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), the victim files a complaint at the local Court House or at the local police station after hours, on weekends, and holidays. A Judge will hear the complaint and issue a TRO if it appears the victim is in danger. You will be asked to give a written statement with your complaint detailing the current incident and your abusers history of violence against you. Include all threats, property damage, and abusive physical contact. A final hearing will be held within ten days. If you are eligible for our services, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services may be able to represent you at the hearing.

Do I Need to Have An Attorney?

The court does not require you to have an attorney, but it is recommended. Domestic Violence is a serious matter and the court may make decisions regarding a restraining order, custody, child and spousal support and temporary possession of property. Our attorneys are experienced in domestic violence law and can help you get the legal relief to which you are entitled.

Are you a victim of domestic violence?

We can help!

Please contact your local county office at:

**Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Domestic Violence Project
Bergen County Division
190 Moore St., Suite 100
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Telephone: 201-487-2166
Fax: 201-487-3513**

**Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Domestic Violence Project
Hudson County Division
574 Summit Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Telephone: 201-792-6363
Fax: 201-798-8780**

**Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
Domestic Violence Project
Passaic County Division
152 Market Street, 6th Fl.
Paterson, NJ 07505
Telephone: 973-523-2900
Fax: 973-523-9002**

**NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY LEGAL
SERVICES** will make special
arrangements to meet with you if you
are homebound or disabled.

**NNJLS can refer you to the Women's
Shelter and other Domestic Violence
Programs in your area.**

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES

**Dedicated to Equal
Justice for All**



Domestic Violence Project

The Domestic Violence Project of Northeast New Jersey Legal Services provides legal advice, assistance, and representation in order to protect the rights of domestic violence victims residing in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is behavior that includes patterns of intimidation, coercion and violence. However, you do not need to be hit or punched by your abuser to be a victim of domestic violence. If your abuser subjects you to verbal, emotional, and/or physical abuse, you may be entitled to protection under New Jersey Law.

The following crimes are grounds for a domestic violence Restraining Order:

- Harassment
- False Imprisonment
- Assault
- Criminal Mischief
- Homicide
- Criminal Sexual Contact
- Stalking
- Criminal Restraint
- Kidnapping
- Terroristic Threats
- Lewdness
- Sexual Assault
- Burglary
- Criminal Trespass



What Should I Do First If Domestic Violence Occurs?

Call the police (911) *immediately!* Police have a duty to enforce the law and protect the victim. They must arrest your abuser if you show visible signs of injury, or if there is reason to believe that your abuser used a weapon or violated a current Restraining Order. Whether they arrest your abuser or not, the police must give you, the victim, written notice of your right to file both a criminal complaint and a domestic violence complaint against your abuser. If you file a domestic violence complaint, a Judge will take your complaint and issue you a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), and the matter will be scheduled for a final hearing at a future date. If the court grants a TRO, you will have a restraining order protecting you from further contact by the abuser until the final hearing.

What Should I do Next?

Contact us! If you qualify for our services, you will be assigned to an attorney who will discuss the specific details of your case with you. The attorney will explain the law and your rights, and will give you legal advice which will prepare you for your final hearing. An attorney may also be available to represent you in court.

Why Should I File For A Restraining Order?

The Restraining Order will help protect you from your abuser. A Restraining Order will also prohibit your abuser from having any contact with you. He or she will be prohibited from calling you or coming to places you frequent, such as your job, school, or home. Even if you are not the owner or primary tenant of your residence, you may be granted temporary possession of it and your abuser may be excluded from the residence. In addition, if there are children involved, temporary custody is usually awarded to the victim. If the abuser is permitted parenting time, it will be ordered to occur in a manner that does not jeopardize the victim's safety. Abusers may also be ordered to pay support for their victim and children and/or other monetary compensation, in appropriate cases.

**WE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
TO SPEAK WITH COMMUNITY
GROUPS**



CALL US!