

What constitutes a violation of the restraining order?

The courthouse is not exempt from violations of restraining orders. The order is still in effect wherever you go. This means the defendant should not speak to you, gesture to you, talk to you through a third party or communicate with you in any way, shape, or form.

Violations outside the courthouse, where there is a no contact order, can include any contact such as sending flowers, letters, email, phone calls, or gifts. No contact means **NO** contact.

What to do if a restraining order is violated:

In an emergency call 911.

Contact the Police and report the violation.

You can also go to the courthouse and file a criminal complaint if there is a violation.

Keep a journal and document any contact or violations of the order.

If a violation occurs in the courthouse, alert the court officer or court staff. Court officers have arrest powers in the courthouse.

SAFEPLAN Locations:

Springfield District Court
50 State St
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 237-9353

Hampshire District Court
15 Gothic St
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 244-0761

Hampshire Probate & Family Court
15 Atwood Dr
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 266-9968

Eastern Hampshire District Court
205 State St
Belchertown, MA 01007
(413) 426-8469

Westfield District Court
224 Elm St
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 568-2010

This project is supported by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance through a Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and/or funding from grants of the state administered SAFEPLAN program.

SAFEPLAN

Safety For Every Person Leaving Abuse Now



Safety Planning

Individualized Safety Planning for all clients.

Resources

Connect with all of our YWCA resources and get referrals for programs.

Court Advocacy

Our team of professional advocates can offer court accompaniment, emotional support, and case consultations.

Safety when appearing at court and after you get an order:

Stay somewhere other than your home the night before a court hearing.

Leave the children in the care of someone responsible when possible.

Consider bringing someone with you for support.

Consider where you are going to park before coming to the court.

Ask for the SAFEPLAN office when you come in.

Try not to sit near or make eye contact with the defendant in the courthouse.

Safety at your workplace or in public areas:

When possible, talk to your boss about a safety plan for work. Try to arrange time off for court appearances.

Keep your restraining order on you at all times.

Let trusted coworkers and security know you have a restraining order.

If available, request escort from security to and from your car.

Give a picture of your abuser to security at your workplace.

Vary your schedule whenever possible.

If you are being followed when in public, go to the nearest group of people.

If you are followed when in your car, go to the nearest police station, fire station, or public place such as a shopping area and blow your horn for help.

Safety around visitation:

Arrange for the children to be exchanged through a neutral party when possible, or arrange drop off and pick up of your children in a public place or police station.

Make boundaries clear, such as times, length of visits, pick up, etc.

Have a specific visitation schedule court ordered. Utilize the services of our Supervised Visitation Program

Safety at home:

Inform friends, family, and neighbors that you have a restraining order.

Change all your locks, check your windows for security, and consider installing motion sensitive lights.

Ask police to do a safety check of your home for weak safety areas.

Have a plan ready in case the situation gets worse.

Pack an overnight bag with copies of important papers and leave it in a safe place outside of the home.

Safety and your emotional health:

Think about who you can trust and rely on for support.

Seek counseling. The YWCA provides confidential counseling services.

We also provide individual and group counseling for children ages 3-18 who have witnessed or been exposed to domestic violence with our Children Who Witness Violence Program.

Please call our 24-hour hotline for free and confidential services.

*(413) 733-7100 (TTY/V).
1-800-796-8711 (TTY/V)
Llamamos 1-800-223-5001 (TTY/V)*

THE YWCA OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS IS DEDICATED TO ELIMINATING RACISM, EMPOWERING WOMEN AND PROMOTING PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.