



Alberta's Protection Against Family Violence Act (PAFVA)

How you can use the law to keep your abuser away

What does it protect against?

This law protects against family violence including threats, stalking, damage to property, not allowing a family member to leave the home, and physical and sexual abuse.

There are two kinds of protective orders that are available under PAFVA:

1. Emergency Protective Orders
2. Queen's Bench Protection Orders

These protective orders can be used to keep your abuser away.



There are other protective court orders that may be helpful. For example restraining orders or peace bonds. You can read more about them at www.willownet.ca/orders

Who does it apply to?




This law considers "family members" to include people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. It also includes partners that are married and partners that are not married but live together. It includes parents of children whether or not they live together.*



**For full details about the Act and other protective orders please visit www.willownet.ca/orders*

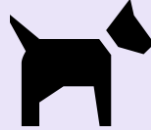
1. Emergency Protective Orders (EPO)

A judge or justice of the peace can issue an order that says an abusive family member:

-  must temporarily leave the home;
-  cannot contact the victim or other family members; and
-  cannot go near their victim's home, workplace, or school.



An EPO can be put in place immediately but it is only temporary. It must be reviewed within 9 working days by a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.



The order can include your pets if you are worried about their safety.



An EPO lets you stay in your home while you prepare to take further steps such as applying for custody of your children.






A court order provides some protection but your partner may not obey the order. In an emergency situation, you should always call the police.

2. Queen's Bench Protection Order

A Queen's Bench Protection Order can be requested in a non-emergency situation, or in a review hearing relating to an emergency protection order.

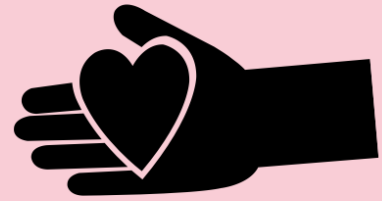
An abusive family member:

-  must leave the home;
-  cannot contact the victim or other family members; and
-  cannot go near their victim's home, workplace, or school.

The abuser can be ordered to pay some costs or temporarily give some items such as cheque books, credit cards, keys, or vehicles to the victim.



Getting Help with Orders under PAFVA



In an emergency situation, the police will assist you.

Legal Aid will provide legal assistance for the review of an emergency protection order. This service is available to everyone regardless of income.
<http://www.legalaid.ab.ca/help/EmergencySituations/Pages/EPOP.aspx>

In other situations, for example, applying for a Queen's Bench Protection Order without having had an emergency protection order, you can contact Legal Aid to see if you qualify for legal assistance.
www.legalaid.ab.ca

The Law Society of Alberta's Lawyer Referral Service can provide you with names of lawyers who are in your area, and who practice in this area of law. You can see any or all of these lawyers free for a half-hour consultation before you decide which one to hire. Call toll free at 1-800-661-1095 or in Calgary at 403-228-1722. www.lawsocietyalberta.com

In Calgary, you may contact Calgary Legal Guidance at 403-234-9266. www.clg.ab.ca

Family Law Information Centres in Edmonton and Calgary may also be able to provide assistance. For information regarding the Centres, see the Alberta Courts website. www.albertacourts.ab.ca/fjs/flic.php



Carry a copy of your protection order with you at all times in case you need to show it to any authority, such as the police

For more Information about Abuse and the Law in Alberta
Please visit www.willownet.ca



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