



Fulton County Superior Court

Family Division

Protective Order Information

Who may file for a TPO in Fulton County?

- Anyone who is seeking a protective order against another person *who lives in Fulton County*. There are no fees associated with filing this type of petition.
- If the respondent is not a Georgia resident, then the petitioner may file his or her action in the county of their own residence **or** in the county where the abuse took place. *Note: if this is the case, even though there are no fees to file a Petition for a Protective Order in Fulton County, there may be costs associated with getting an out-of-state respondent served with notice of the action in his or her home state.*

What kinds of TPOS are available?

- Domestic violence protective (not restraining) orders are civil actions.
- There are two kinds:
 - **1. FAMILY VIOLENCE TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS**
 - **2. STALKING TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

What must be happening, to require such a temporary protective order?

- **FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDER:** the person you are filing against **must** be: a past or present spouse, a co-parent of the same child or children with you, a stepparent and child, a foster parent and child or persons who either live together or used to live together. (This includes roommates but you may **not** file this type of petition if **all** you are seeking to do is evict someone from your home.)
- **STALKING PROTECTIVE ORDER:** the person you are filing against must be **repeatedly** following you, placing you under surveillance, or contacting you by phone, email, text or any by other means **repeatedly** without your permission **and** *such contact must be for the purpose of harassing or intimidating you.*

What you must have:

- A valid piece of picture ID because you're Petition must be notarized. You must be over the age of 18 to file. If you seek protection for a child, you may do so "on behalf of" that minor child. You must also have a **valid address for the respondent**; if the sheriff cannot serve the respondent with legal notice of the action then it cannot go forward.

Filing a Temporary Protective Order - What to Expect and Procedures

There is **NO FEE** for filing a Protective Order. The process will take approximately three to four (3) to (4) hours from beginning to end. Below is a brief outline of the filing steps:

1. You must arrive at least **1 ½ hours prior** to the scheduled Ex Parte hearing to have adequate time to complete your forms. Ex Parte Hearings are *held daily* at:

11:00 a.m. **1:00 p.m.** **3:00 p.m.**

(So you will need to be here at 9:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; or 1:30 p.m.)

2. Once your paperwork is complete, you will proceed to an Ex Parte Hearing where the Judge will hear your case and issue a ruling on your petition.
3. If the Judge grants your TPO Petition at the Ex Parte Hearing, you will petition an order will be E-Filed and you receive two (2) certified copies; One (1) copy along with service paperwork and One **(1) certified copy that you have to keep with you at all times.**
4. You will need to take a copy along with your service paperwork to the Sheriff's Office to arrange for the Respondent (opposing party) **to be served.** The Sheriff's Office is located on the 9th Floor of the Justice Center Tower (JCT) – Suite T-9000.

****NOTE:** It is important to note that the Respondent **MUST** be served before the date of the 12-Month Hearing. **KEEP A COPY OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER (TPO) WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.**

Important Numbers:

Fulton County One Stop! Office 404-613-4579

Fulton County Superior Court Clerk 404-612-2196

Fulton County Sheriff's Office Service Line 404-612-5129