

EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS

What You Need to Know



If you are experiencing family violence and need emergency protection, call **1-866-223-7775** or your local RCMP.

You have options

The *Protection Against Family Violence Act* gives you choices that can help keep you and your loved ones safe:

Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs)

- If you or your children are in danger of family violence, you can get an Emergency Protection Order 24/7, anywhere in the Northwest Territories. You don't need to go to court or hire a lawyer. You will get help to apply.

Protection Order

- This gives protection for a longer period of time. You will need to hire a lawyer and go to court for a protection order. There are free legal options available through the Independent Legal Advice & Representation program (867-765-8670).

Warrant

- This allows the police to go into a home and help someone who may be experiencing family violence.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

What is family violence?

There are many types of family violence, and there are some types of abuse that don't leave bruises.

- **Physical abuse:** hitting, kicking, slapping, or choking you or family members
- **Psychological abuse:** threatening you or members of your family, destroying your belongings or property, or making you afraid for your safety
- **Emotional abuse:** name-calling, isolating or controlling you, threatening you, intimidation, harassment
- **Financial abuse:** forcing you to give up money, taking your bank cards, withdrawing money without your permission
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing you to do something sexual, taking sexual photos without your permission, or manipulating you to agree to sexual acts, rape

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

What can an Emergency Protection Order do?

Every case is different. but an Emergency Protection Order can last for **up to 90 days** and may:

- Order the abusive person to stay away from you, and if your children are being harmed, the abusive person can be ordered to stay away from the children as well
- Allow you to stay in your home without the abusive person being there
- Require the RCMP to remove any weapons the abusive person may have

An Emergency Protection Order is granted by a designated Justice of the Peace.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

Who can get this protection?

Anyone who is in a **family relationship** with the abusive person, or who has had a child with the abusive person, can call for help. This can include:

- anyone in a family relationship
- grandparents
- aunts, uncles, or cousins
- people in a same-sex relationship

If you are in need of protection from family relationship, you can apply for an Emergency Protection Order.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

How do you apply for this protection?

It usually takes a few hours to apply for an Emergency Protection Order. You can apply at any time, even on a weekend or holiday.

1. **Call 1-866-223-7775** (Alison McAteer House) or your local RCMP and tell them that you want to apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).
2. You will need to **tell them what the emergency is** and why you need help right away. Staff will ask you questions to understand the situation.
3. Staff will call a **Justice of the Peace** to set up a hearing, who will decide if you need emergency protection. You will have to tell the Justice of Peace why you need help right away.
4. The Justice of Peace will **decide if the order is granted**. If it is granted, the RCMP will give you and the abusive person a copy of the order. They will also help you if the abusive person ignores the order.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

How long does an Emergency Protection Order last?

An Emergency Protection Order can last up to 90 days. Depending on the situation, it can also last for just a weekend or a few weeks.

After the Emergency Protection Order is granted, a judge from the Supreme Court will review the order. If the judge wants more information, you and the abusive person might need to go to a hearing. Both of you will have the chance to tell your side of the situation. You won't need a lawyer for the hearing, but you can have a support person with you.

If you decide that you need protection longer than the Emergency Protection Order, you can talk to a lawyer for other options. You can call **867-765-8670** to speak to a lawyer through the Independent Legal Advice & Representation program.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

What happens when an Emergency Protection Order expires?

If you still need protection and your Emergency Protection Order is expiring soon, you can apply for a court-facilitated Protection Order by talking to a lawyer.

A Protection Order is a long-term legal order that can keep you and your children safe. You will need to hire a lawyer and go to court to apply for the Protection Order.

You can seek legal advice to find out more about your options before your Emergency Protection Order is expired. To receive this legal advice, you can call 867-765-8670.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

What about older people?

It is often hard for abused older people to ask for help. They feel loyal to family members and often count on them for everyday living. But an Emergency Protection Order can help seniors too.

Sometimes seniors or Elders are abused, but they don't think it's abuse or that it's an emergency. This often happens when family members demand money from them or make them do things they don't want to do. Sometimes they hit them or push them around.

You can call 1-866-223-7775 to talk privately or you can call your local RCMP. Your nurse or social worker can also help you if someone is abusing you.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

Extra Information

What should you do while the Emergency Protection Order is in place?

You can report any incidents while the order is in place to the RCMP and talk to a lawyer about your other options. You can talk to a lawyer through the Independent Legal Advice & Representation program. You should also create a safety plan. You can call Alison McAteer House staff.

What if you have a custody order in place?

The custody order will stay in place unless there is danger to the children. If you want to make changes to the custody order, you will need to go through family court.

Will the abusive person have a criminal record?

The abusive person will not get a criminal record. However, if they are caught breaking the order, then the police may lay charges.

What if you get back together?

You and your partner can choose to return to the relationship. You will need to talk to a lawyer to make changes or drop the Emergency Protection Order. It is a good idea to have a safety plan, in case another incident of violence occurs.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

Extra Information

How do you make changes or drop the Emergency Protection Order?

You will need to hire a lawyer and go to court to make any changes to the Emergency Protection Order.

Are there free legal services to help apply for a Protection Order?

You can contact Legal Aid or the Independent Legal Advice & Representation (ILAR) Program for free legal services. These lawyers can help you learn about your legal options, apply for a Protection Order, or go to court for issues related to family violence.

ILAR Program: 1-867-765-8670

Legal Aid: 1-867-873-5320

What if the Emergency Protection Order is breached?

You can report any breaches to RCMP, and if the abusive person is still there, they will be charged.

How do you get more information about an Emergency Protection Order?

If you have more questions about an Emergency Protection Order, call Alison McAteer House at 1-866-223-7775.

1-866-223-7775

Or call your local RCMP

You have an option.

**Don't put up with family
violence.**



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

With support from:

