



# Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence

A Law Enforcement Officer's Guide To Enforcing Protection Orders Nationwide



## **FULL FAITH AND CREDIT**

Full faith and credit requires that valid civil and criminal protection orders must be enforced to protect victims wherever a violation of an order occurs, regardless of where the order was issued.



In 1994, Congress enacted the full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The federal law directs jurisdictions to give full faith and credit to valid protection orders issued by other jurisdictions. 18 U.S.C. § 2265 (2006). This includes all 50 states, Indian tribal lands, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. The full faith and credit provision of VAWA was amended in 2000 and 2006.

### **Why is full faith and credit important?**

When victims leave abusers, they and their children are at increased risk of violence. Offenders who cross jurisdictional lines in pursuit of victims may pose greater risks of lethal assault. Other criminal activities, such as stalking and threats with firearms, are significant risk indicators of life-

threatening violence.

(See *Assessing Risk of Lethality*, page 8.)

### **What does this mean for law enforcement?**

If a protection order is valid in the issuing jurisdiction, it must be enforced in every other state, tribe, or territory, whether or not it is registered or filed.



## Some jurisdictions grant protection orders:

- To victims who might not be eligible for protection orders in the enforcing jurisdiction;
- For periods of time longer than authorized in the enforcing jurisdiction; or
- Containing directives against abusers that might not be available in the enforcing jurisdiction.

## Responding officers must:

- Enforce the terms and conditions of a valid protection order as written, including support provisions, child custody provisions, and firearm prohibitions; and
- Comply with all laws, policies, and procedures of their own jurisdiction concerning violation of protection orders (e.g., mandatory arrest, victim notification, and firearm seizure).

Responding officers do not need to know the laws of the issuing jurisdiction to enforce protection orders from that jurisdiction.

## What does this mean for victims?

Victims granted civil or criminal protection orders can call upon law enforcement to protect them and to take all appropriate action against offenders nationwide. Victims who work in, travel, or relocate to another jurisdiction can expect that their protection orders will be enforced in all jurisdictions.

## What does this mean for abusers?

An abuser may be arrested and charged with both violating a protection order and committing other substantive crimes wherever they violate a valid protection order. The abuser must be arrested for a violation



of a protection order if the law of the jurisdiction where the violation occurred requires an arrest.

## **WHAT IS A PROTECTION ORDER?**

The full faith and credit provision of VAWA defines “protection order” as any civil or criminal restraining order, injunction, bail or release order, probation condition and all other orders for protection issued to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking or to deter offenders from further violence or abuse. VAWA also encompasses protections contained in support, child custody, and visitation orders and protective directives in other court orders. 18 U.S.C. § 2266(5). Emergency, ex parte, temporary, and final orders are subject to full faith and credit under VAWA.

Orders may differ in name, form, content, layout, and duration.

## **Basic Elements of a Valid Protection Order**

Any court-issued protection order should be presumed valid if all of the following are found:

- The order gives the names of the parties.
- The order contains the date it was issued. The date must be prior to the date when enforcement is sought.
- If the order includes an expiration date, the date must not have passed. An order need not contain a specific expiration date to be valid.
- The order contains the name of the issuing court.
- The order is signed by or on behalf of a judicial officer.
- The order specifies terms and conditions against the offender.

## **Determining the Terms and Conditions of a Protection Order**

It is essential that the officer read the order in its entirety. The order may state something in one paragraph and specify exceptions in another. For example, one paragraph may state that the offender is to have “no contact” with a victim, and then in another paragraph, permit contact to arrange for visitation with the children. In this case, if the offender contacts the victim for any reason other than to arrange for visitation, the order is violated.

## **Evaluating the Enforceability of a Protection Order**

A protection order issued in another jurisdiction is enforceable when:

- The order appears to be valid; and
- There is probable cause to believe that a violation of the order occurred in the enforcing jurisdiction.

Where enforcement requirements have not been met and an officer cannot arrest for a violation of the order, the officer should assess whether there is probable cause that the offender engaged in other chargeable offenses under state, tribal, or territorial law. Chargeable offenses may include assault, stalking, terroristic threats, or trespassing. The officer should make a warrantless arrest or seek an arrest warrant pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction.

### **Verifying the Terms and Conditions of a Protection Order**

Verification is not required under federal law and may be necessary only if the order does not appear valid on its face. In some cases, the enforcing jurisdiction's laws may require verification if the protected party cannot furnish a copy of the protection order.

Verification can be accomplished by any one of the following methods:

- Confirm an order in the National Crime Information Center Protection Order File (NCIC POF);
- Review the elements of an order in registries of protection orders in the issuing jurisdiction;
- Confirm the elements by communicating with the court or law enforcement in the issuing jurisdiction;
- Review the elements of an order if previously filed with designated authorities in the enforcing jurisdiction; or
- Draw upon personal knowledge of the officer or information obtained through an interview.

### **Note:**

- Certification of the validity of an order by the issuing court is not required for the protection order to be enforced.
- Offender notification of exposure to federal criminal prosecution for interjurisdictional violation of an order or for violation of federal firearm law is not a precondition for enforcement (see page 8).
- Recitation of numeric or other identifiers in the order is not required for enforcement.
- There is no requirement that the order display the original signature of the issuing authority or a raised seal or stamp of the court for enforcement.
- Federal law provides that jurisdictions may not require victims to register or file their protection orders with police, courts, or registries before the order can be enforced.

## **Project Passport Recognizable First Page for Protection Orders**

*Project Passport* was designed to improve recognition and enforcement of protection orders within and between jurisdictions by encouraging them to adopt a recognizable first page for protection orders (i.e., by including common elements and format). Using a recognizable first page for protection orders helps strengthen the safety net for battered women and their children by offering greater consistency in the issuance and enforcement of protection orders. The model template for this first page was originally developed through a regional effort. More than 30 states have adopted the template into their forms. Other jurisdictions are in the process of adopting this format. Whether a jurisdiction has adopted the *Project Passport* model template or not, the orders issued by its courts are afforded full faith and credit and are enforceable by other states, tribes, and territories. For additional information on *Project Passport*, see the Resources section of this guide.

### **Service of a Protection Order**

If an offender asserts that there has been no notice or service of the protection order, an officer should:

- Verify the service of the order by contacting the issuing jurisdiction or confirm service by reviewing a proof of service supplied by the victim.
- Check local and state registries and NCIC POF to determine whether the order has been served.
- Thoroughly interview both parties to gather more information. Some respondents are able to avoid service for long periods; however, they may have constructive knowledge of the order's existence without service having been effected.

Additionally, an officer should:

- Give the abuser notice of terms of the protection order and provide the abuser with a copy of the order.
- Explain the consequences of future violations to the abuser.
- Notify the issuing authority that the abuser received notice or service of the protection order.
- Notify the issuing authority of the incident, whether there was an arrest, and details of the charges filed.

## **WHAT ENFORCEMENT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN?**

### **Immediate Action:**

- Approach the scene in accordance with policy and training.
- Examine the area (i.e., listen and observe) and enter the premises in accordance with jurisdictional law.
- Immediately stop the violence.
- Separate the parties.
- Ensure the safety of all and safeguard victims from further abuse.
- Determine if children are present. Assess needs for safety and interviewing.
- Evaluate, secure, protect, and investigate the scene.
- Preserve evidence.
- Seek voluntary surrender of firearms or other weapons for safekeeping purposes or seize firearms subject to state, territorial, local, or tribal prohibitions.
- Determine whether a protection order is in effect and evaluate its validity and enforceability.
- Investigate and establish probable cause of possible protection order violations and other crimes.
- Arrest for violation of the order, if the enforcing jurisdiction permits or requires, and for any other criminal offenses.
- Conduct criminal checks on offender for active warrants and possible enhanced charges.
- Enforce custody provisions in accordance with jurisdictional law and the language of the order.
- Seek an arrest warrant related to the criminal conduct if offender is not at the scene and a warrant is required by law.
- Attempt to locate and arrest offender.
- Refer victims to a local or national domestic violence service provider.
- Provide the victim and children with safety options before leaving the scene.

### **Reducing the Risk of Liability:**

- Follow department procedures regarding response to domestic violence and stalking.
- Respond in a timely fashion.
- Investigate thoroughly.
- Enforce custody provisions of any protection order.
- Preserve evidence.
- Seek relinquishment of or confiscate weapons.
- Follow arrest laws of the enforcing jurisdiction.

- Complete detailed incident reports.
- Charge appropriately.
- Offer assistance, referrals, and transportation to victim.
- Assist victim in obtaining an emergency protection order.
- Follow up for victim protection.
- Ascertain and enforce conditions on bail and probation.
- Supervise carefully to ensure victim safety.

### **Liability for Failure to Enforce Protection Orders**

Failure to enforce a protection order that was issued in another jurisdiction exposes officers and their departments to civil actions if victims are injured or killed as a consequence. Many jurisdictions have laws that give officers statutory immunity from civil liability when officers take reasonable action to protect a victim in domestic violence and stalking cases. Most of these statutes require that the officers act in good faith.

## **HELPFUL INTERVENTIONS WITH VICTIMS**

### **Assessing Risk of Lethality**

Officers should assess the risk of recurring or lethal assault by abusers at each call for service. Risk markers of severe or lethal violence include:

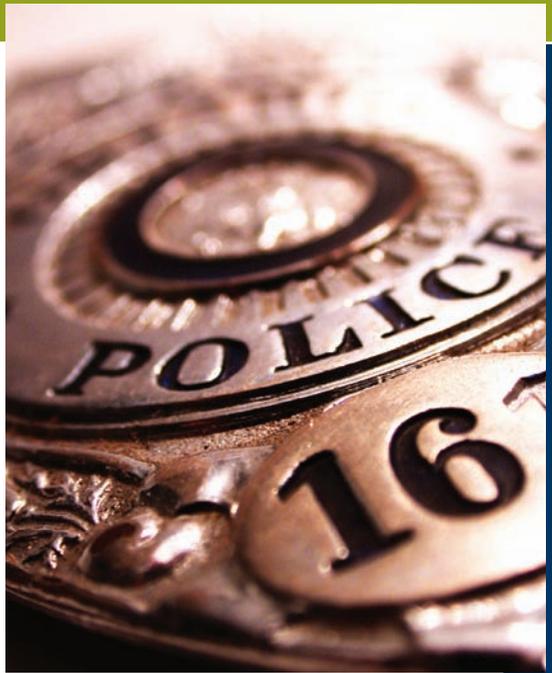
- Threats of homicide or suicide;
- Articulation of fantasies and plans for homicide or suicide;
- Stalking, including cross-jurisdictional travel to threaten or harass;
- Possession, access to, and threats with firearms;
- Use of strangulation;
- Obsessive attachment to victim;
- Depression or other mental illness;
- Sexual violence toward victim;
- Extensive drug or alcohol consumption;
- History of violent criminal conduct, both domestic and to third parties;
- Destruction of victim's property;
- Severe abuse of pets;
- Unemployment or withdrawal from workforce;
- Separation of parties; and
- Access to victim, victim's family, and other supporters.

The presence of even one of these markers may classify an abuser as high risk. An assessment of high risk should be communicated to the victim, the duty supervisor, the domestic violence unit, and the bail magistrate,

should an officer arrest the assailant. Risk assessment should continue throughout the criminal trial and during probation or parole.

### **Referral Actions:**

- Address victim's health, transportation, and housing needs by making referrals to community services.
- Refer victim to the appropriate court for protection orders.
- Refer victim to advocacy agency to obtain essential resources and assistance in enforcing the economic provisions of a current protection order (e.g., child support, property replacement, mortgage payments).
- Transport victim to emergency services.



### **Safety Strategies:**

- Notify victims of their legal rights within the enforcing jurisdiction.
- Assess and share risk and lethality assessment with the victim.
- Conduct safety planning with the victim.
- When a child has been detained by a respondent in violation of a protection order that awards custody to the petitioner, take the child into custody and restore the child to the custodial parent (i.e., the parent awarded primary parenting time and authority in the protection order). When there is no custody award and the assailant is arrested, any children in his or her presence or care should be returned to the petitioner or other biological parent, or as state law requires.
- Provide telephone numbers for local shelters, legal assistance, and hotlines.
- Follow up with law enforcement and victim advocacy programs.
- Inform victim and assailant about firearm laws, surrender procedures, seizure, and forfeiture.
- Notify the victim of any arrest of the offender, when the offender is released from custody, and the conditions on bail or release.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FULL FAITH AND CREDIT

### **What types of orders are entitled to full faith and credit under federal law?**

- Criminal and civil protection orders and other court orders containing protective provisions;
- Protection orders, regardless of title (e.g., consent, restraining, no contact, injunction, stay away);
- *Ex parte* orders that are consistent with due process as defined by VAWA; and
- Emergency, temporary, final, and lifetime orders; tribal and territorial orders.

### **Is the responding officer enforcing state, tribal, territorial, or federal law?**

When enforcing protection orders (issued locally or in other jurisdictions), officers are enforcing the laws of the jurisdiction in which they serve.

### **What if the victim does not have a copy of the protection order?**

- Seek to confirm the existence of an order.
- Verify victim's claim of a protection order through reliable and credible information.
- Use professional judgment and expertise.
- Check NCIC POF and the national registry of tribal orders.
- Check with state, tribal, territorial, and local registries, the issuing court, or with law enforcement in the issuing jurisdiction.
- Confirm through offender statements that a protection order exists. Determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the offender has committed a violation or criminal offense.
- Arrest offender pursuant to enforcing jurisdiction's protection order law and crimes code.
- Notify issuing authority of arrest and or contact.
- Refer victim to appropriate court, prosecutor, and advocacy agency.

### **What if the abuser has violated the protection order and then fled the scene?**

- Determine if offender's actions permit warrantless arrest.
- Determine if there are any outstanding arrest warrants for the offender.
- Pursue the offender or seek an arrest warrant, as appropriate.
- Follow departmental procedure for dealing with a suspect who has fled the scene.

- Conduct risk assessment and safety planning.
- Refer victim to advocacy agency, prosecutor, and the appropriate court.

### **What if the protection order gives relief not authorized in the responding officer's jurisdiction?**

- Enforce terms and conditions of the protection order as written.
- Enforce for the duration specified in the order or any extension confirmed with the issuing authority.
- Enforce as authorized by law in the enforcing jurisdiction.

### **What type of enforcement action is required for custody provisions in protection orders?**

The full faith and credit provision makes it clear that custody provisions in protection orders must be given full faith and credit and must be enforced by other jurisdictions.



This requires law enforcement officers to treat the custody provision in a protection order issued elsewhere the same as they would treat custody provisions within orders issued by courts in their jurisdiction by following their laws and procedures. For example, if enforcement by pick-up of children is permitted or mandated under the enforcing jurisdiction's laws, such action should be taken based upon the out-of-jurisdiction order. If pick-up by law enforcement requires a separate order, that order would be required for enforcement of an out-of-jurisdiction order as well.

### **What is an *ex parte* order?**

An *ex parte* order is an emergency or temporary order issued prior to providing the respondent with notice or a hearing. *Ex parte* orders are entitled to full faith and credit if the respondent has notice of the order and will have an opportunity to be heard in court within the time required by state, territorial, or tribal law, or within a reasonable time after the order is issued, consistent with due process. *Ex parte* orders must be enforced even if the respondent has not yet had an opportunity to be heard or provide testimony in the issuing court.

### **What are mutual protection orders?**

A mutual protection order is one protection order that restrains the conduct of both the petitioner and respondent. This is not the same as each party having his or her own protection order. The issuance of mutual orders is highly discouraged. However, when there is a mutual protection order that has prohibitions against both the petitioner and respondent, the provisions that restrain the petitioner's conduct are entitled to full faith and credit only if the respondent filed a counter petition and the court made a specific finding that each party was entitled to a protection order. Otherwise, outside of the issuing jurisdiction, the order is enforceable only against the respondent.

### **What about military orders?**

Military protection orders are not entitled to full faith and credit. They are routinely issued by a commanding officer without providing armed services personnel either notice or an opportunity to be heard. Military installations should give full faith and credit to orders issued by civilian courts in states, tribes, and territories.

In December 2002, Congress enacted the Armed Forces Domestic Security Act, 10 U.S.C. § 1561a(a), which states that “[a] civilian order of protection [issued by a state, tribal or territorial court] shall have the same force and effect on a military installation as such order has within the jurisdiction of the court that issued such order.” The Secretary of Defense has drafted regulations to guide implementation of the Law. *See* U.S. DEP'T of DEFENSE INSTR. 6400.06, DOMESTIC ABUSE INVOLVING DoD MILITARY and CERTAIN CIVILIAN AFFILIATED PERSONNEL (21 Aug. 2007). Military police are authorized to enforce civilian (state, tribal, or territorial) protection orders issued against service members.

## **FEDERAL CRIMES**

Officers must be familiar with federal laws that pertain to domestic violence and stalking to evaluate whether federal crimes have been committed and to make appropriate referrals to federal agencies. If you think that a case may involve federal crimes, contact the United States Attorney's Office in your jurisdiction and ask for an attorney who addresses federal domestic violence laws.

### **Federal Firearm Prohibitions**

Federal law prohibits an offender subject to a qualifying protection order from possessing, purchasing, or receiving firearms and ammunition. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8).

A qualifying protection order is one issued:

- Where the petitioner and respondent are married or formerly married, live together or formerly lived together, have a child in common, or the petitioner is the respondent's child. 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(32), 922(g)(8);
- After a hearing of which the offender had actual notice and an opportunity to participate;
- That restrains the offender from harassing, stalking, or threatening the intimate partner or child, or from engaging in conduct that places either the partner or child in reasonable fear of bodily injury. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8)(B); and
- That includes:
  - An express finding that the offender presents a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8)(C)(i); or
  - An express prohibition against the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner or child that might reasonably be expected to cause physical injury. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8)(C)(ii).

The federal law creates an exemption for certain government employees required to carry firearms while on duty. 18 U.S.C. § 925(a)(1). This provision, often called the “official use exemption,” allows law enforcement and those in the military to carry their duty weapons while on duty. The possession or use of **personal** firearms, hunting weapons, or ammunition continue to be prohibited under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8). If your state law or law enforcement policies do not allow for possession of duty weapons while subject to a protection order, then duty weapons may not be carried even though federal law would allow for such possession. This official use exemption includes authorized weapons paid for with personal money.

In addition to the federal firearm prohibitions, many state and local laws may restrict a respondent's ability to purchase and possess weapons for the duration of a protection order. Where state or local prohibitions do not restrict the respondent's ability to purchase or possess weapons or ammunition for the duration of the order, officers should be aware that possession of these items by the respondent would be a violation of federal law, and therefore these items would be deemed contraband in the hands of the respondent. Officers should enforce their jurisdiction's law authorizing or precluding possession of weapons by prohibited parties, as well as those that govern the transfer of weapons to third parties by a person subject to a protection order. Where state or local laws permit, officers should confiscate any and all contraband in the possession of the respondent. Efforts may include seeking voluntary surrender of firearms and ammunition, accepting weapons for safekeeping, or seizing firearms and ammunition pursuant to terms of the order, if allowed by law.

Federal law also prohibits an offender who has been convicted of a state, tribal, or territorial qualifying misdemeanor crime of domestic violence (MCDV) from possessing, purchasing, or receiving firearms and ammunition.

A misdemeanor is a qualifying MCDV if:

- The defendant is married or was formerly married to the victim; is the parent or guardian of the victim; has a child with the victim; lives or formerly lived together as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or is similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; and
- An element in the misdemeanor statute includes the use or attempted use of physical force or threatened use of a deadly weapon.

Unlike § 922(g)(8), this gun prohibition is long lasting, meaning that a person who has been convicted of a qualifying misdemeanor can never legally possess a gun again unless the conviction has been expunged, or set aside or the person is pardoned, or has his or her civil rights restored (i.e., right to sit on a jury, vote, hold a public office). This clause does not refer to firearms rights. Further, one cannot have civil rights restored if the convicting jurisdiction did not take any civil rights away. However, a court, or other state or tribal authority issuing an expungement order, a pardon, or civil rights restoration may preserve the firearm prohibition and thus § 922(g)(9) would still apply. Unlike § 922(g)(8), there is no official use exemption under § 922(g)(9). Government employees are subject to this law, even while on duty.

It is important to distinguish between federal and state firearm prohibitions and how they are enforced by state law enforcement entities. Officers should communicate with and seek guidance from the appropriate federal authorities about apparent violations of federal firearm laws. The laws are complex. Additional information and assistance is available from the organizations in the Resources section of this guide.

## **Interstate Domestic Violence**

Under 18 U.S.C. § 2261, it is a federal crime for a person to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, to enter or leave Indian Country, or to travel within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner, and in the course of or as a result of such travel, commit or attempt to commit a crime of violence against that partner.

It is also a federal crime for a person to cause a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or to enter or leave Indian Country, by force, coercion, duress, or fraud, and in

the course of, as a result of, or to facilitate such conduct or travel, commits or attempts to commit a crime of violence against that partner.

The broad definition of “spouse or intimate partner” includes:

“(I) a spouse or former spouse of the abuser, a person who shares a child in common with the abuser, and a person who cohabits or has cohabited as a spouse with the abuser; or (II) a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the abuser, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.” 18 U.S.C. § 2266(7)(A)(i).

The term “spouse or intimate partner” also covers “any other person similarly situated to a spouse who is protected by the domestic violence or family violence laws of the State or tribal jurisdiction in which the injury occurred or where the victim resides.” 18 U.S.C. § 2266(7)(B).

The term “dating partner” refers to any “person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the abuser. The existence of such a relationship is based on a consideration of— (A) the length of the relationship; and (B) type of relationship; and (C) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.” 18 U.S.C. § 2266(10).

## **Interstate Stalking**

Under 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(1), it is a federal crime for an individual to travel in interstate or foreign commerce or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or to enter or leave Indian Country, with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or place another person under surveillance with intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate that person, and in the course of, or as a result of, such travel the individual traveling places another in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury, or causes substantial emotional distress to the other person, a member of the immediate family of that person, or the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

It is also a federal crime to use the mail, any facility of interstate or foreign commerce, or any interactive computer service to engage in a course of conduct that causes substantial emotional distress or places a person in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. The abuser must intend to kill, injure, harass, or place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate or cause substantial emotional distress to that person, a member of their immediate family, or their spouse or intimate partner, in another jurisdiction. 18 U.S.C. § 2261A(2).

With regard to stalking, the terms “spouse or intimate partner” are broad and include “(I) a spouse or former spouse of the target of the stalking, a person who shares a child in common with the target of the stalking, and a person who cohabits or has cohabited as a spouse with the target of the stalking; or (II) a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the target of the stalking, as determined by the length of the relationship, type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.” 18 U.S.C. § 2266(7)(A)(ii). The definition also includes “any other person similarly situated to a spouse who is protected by the domestic violence or family violence laws of the State or tribal jurisdiction in which the injury occurred or where the victim resides.” 18 U.S.C. § 2266(7)(B).

The term “immediate family member” includes a spouse, parent, brother or sister, child or person to whom the stalking target stands *in loco parentis* with; or any other person living in the household and related to the stalking target by blood or marriage. 18 U.S.C. § 115(c)(2).

### **Interstate Violation of Protection Order**

It is a federal crime to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or enter or leave Indian Country, or to travel within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, with intent to engage in conduct that violates the portion of a protection order that prohibits or provides protection against violence, threats, or harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity to, another person, or that would violate such a portion of a protection order in the issuing jurisdiction. The person must intend to violate the order at the time of travel and must subsequently engage in a violation of such portion of the order. 18 U.S.C. § 2262.

It is also a federal crime to cause another person to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or enter or leave Indian Country, by force, coercion, duress, or fraud, and in the course of, as a result of, or to facilitate such conduct or travel the offender engages in conduct that violates the portion of a protection order that prohibits or provides protection against violence, threats, or harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity to, another person, or that would violate such a portion of a protection order in the issuing jurisdiction.

Note: There is no intimate partner requirement in § 2262. For purposes of this section, the pertinent definition for “protection order” is under 18 U.S.C. § 2266(5).

## RESOURCES

Technical assistance is available for law enforcement personnel from the following organizations to answer specific questions and to facilitate effective enforcement of orders.

### **Full Faith and Credit and Federal Firearm Laws**

National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit (NCPOFFC)  
800-903-0111, prompt 2  
703-312-7922  
[www.fullfaithandcredit.org](http://www.fullfaithandcredit.org)

### **Domestic Violence and the Civil and Criminal Legal Systems**

Battered Women's Justice Project  
800-903-0111, prompt 1  
612-824-8768  
[www.bwjp.org](http://www.bwjp.org)

### **Police Policy and Practice**

International Association of Chiefs of Police  
800-THE-IACP or 800-843-4227  
[www.iacp.org](http://www.iacp.org)

### **Project Passport**

National Center for State Courts  
Contact person: Denise Dancy  
800-616-6164  
757-259-1593  
[www.ncsc.org](http://www.ncsc.org)

### **Stalking**

National Center for Victims of Crime  
Stalking Resource Center  
800-FYI-CALL or 800-394-2255  
202-467-8700  
[www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)

### **Military**

Battered Women's Justice Project  
800-903-0111, prompt 1  
612-824-8768  
[www.bwjp.org](http://www.bwjp.org)



### **Federal Firearms**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
800-ATF-GUNS or 800-283-4867  
[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

### **Custody and Child Welfare**

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Family Violence Department  
800-52-PEACE or 800-527-3223  
[www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)

### **Tribal Law and Practice**

Mending the Sacred Hoop  
888-305-1650 or 218-623-4667  
[www.msh-ta.org](http://www.msh-ta.org)

Sacred Circle  
887-733-7623  
[www.sacred-circle.com](http://www.sacred-circle.com)

Southwest Center for Law and Policy  
520-623-8192  
[www.swclap.org](http://www.swclap.org)

Tribal Law and Policy Institute  
651-644-1125  
[www.tribalprotectionorder.org](http://www.tribalprotectionorder.org)

## Hotlines

National Hotline Assistance for Victims of  
Domestic Violence

National Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-SAFE or 800-799- 7233

512-455-8117

TTY: 800-787-3224

(24 hours for referral to state, tribal, territorial, and local organizations)

[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

Love is Respect

866-331-9474

TTY: 866-331-8453

[www.loveisrespect.com](http://www.loveisrespect.com)

Hotline Assistance for Victims of Sexual Assault

To be connected to a local rape crisis center:

800-656-4673

[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)





**National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit**  
**1901 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1011**  
**Arlington, VA 22209**  
**Toll Free: 800-903-0111, Prompt 2**  
**Direct: 703-312-7922**  
**Fax: 703-312-7966**  
**Website: [www.fullfaithandcredit.org](http://www.fullfaithandcredit.org)**

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