

FORM 10.01-C: HOW TO COMPLETE A PETITION FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER

These instructions will help you to prepare the Petition for Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order. Only the domestic relations division of the Court in your county hears a Petition for a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order. **Throughout the Petition, you (the party to be protected) are called *Petitioner* and the person you are filing this Petition against (the alleged domestic violence offender) is called *Respondent*.**

SOME HINTS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- All forms must be typed or printed.
- When you write your name on the Petition, use the same name you use when you write your signature.
- Write your name and the Respondent's name the same way throughout the Petition.
- Fill out the Petition as completely and accurately as possible.
- If you have any questions about completing the Petition, contact your local victim assistance program, domestic violence program, or the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at 800-934-9840.

FILLING OUT THE PETITION: Mark each instruction below after you read and complete it

- On the front page, leave the “Case No.” line and “Judge/Magistrate” lines BLANK.** The Clerk of Court’s office fills in this information.
- On the top left-hand side of the front page, fill in the requested information about yourself.** If you do not want your present address to be known, write “confidential” in the space for your address. Do not write your address anywhere on the Petition if you want it to be confidential. However, you must provide another mailing address where you can safely receive notices from the Court.
- On the top left-hand side of the front page, fill in the requested information about the Respondent as best you can.** You may use the Respondent’s work address if you do not know Respondent’s home address. If you do not know the Respondent’s date of birth, leave that line blank. Do not attempt to obtain this information unless it is safe to do so.
- Paragraph 1:** If you are filing the Petition to protect yourself, mark the first box and the box that describes your relationship to the Respondent.
- Paragraph 2:** If you are filing the Petition to protect a family or household member, mark the box and fill in their name(s) and the other information requested in the chart. You may attach additional pages if you need more room.
- Paragraph 3:** State the date(s) of the incident(s) that caused you to file the Petition. Provide a brief description of what happened. You may attach additional pages if you need more room to complete your description. You may attach an affidavit instead of or in addition to the written description.
- Paragraph 4:** Indicate what action you want the Court to take by marking the boxes next to the numbered paragraphs that apply to your situation.
- Paragraph 4(b):** Provide the address of the residence that you want the Respondent to stay away from. If you do not want your present address known, write “address confidential.”
- Paragraphs 4(d) and (e):** If you want temporary custody of your minor children or want the Court to establish temporary visitation rights, list the names and birth dates of the children. If you have children whose custody or visitation will be at issue in this domestic violence case, you must also complete and file a Parenting Proceeding Affidavit, Form 10.01-F. There is a separate form and instructions for the Parenting Proceeding Affidavit, Form 10.01-E and Form 10.01-F.

- Paragraph 4(i):** If you want the Court to grant you use of a motor vehicle, describe that vehicle.
- Paragraph 4(j):** Write any special court orders you believe would help protect you and your family or household members.
- Paragraph 5:** If you need an emergency (“*ex parte*”) protection order mark the box next to Paragraph 5.
- Paragraph 9:** List ALL present and pertinent past court cases or investigations that involve the Respondent, you, or a family or household member. This includes all civil, criminal, divorce, juvenile, custody, visitation, and bankruptcy cases that may have a bearing on your or your family or household members’ safety. Write the case name, the court, the case number, if known, the type of case, and the result of the case. If the case is not over, write “pending.” You may attach additional pages if you need more room.

SIGNING THE PETITION

Try to fill out the Petition before you go to the courthouse. AFTER YOU HAVE FILLED OUT THE PETITION, TAKE THE PETITION TO A NOTARY PUBLIC TO HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE NOTARIZED. **DO NOT SIGN THE PETITION UNLESS YOU ARE IN FRONT OF A NOTARY PUBLIC.** An employee of the Clerk of Court’s office may be available to notarize the petition for you.

FILING THE PETITION

After you have your signature notarized, file your Petition at the Clerk of Court’s office. The Clerk of Court’s office will tell you when and where your *ex parte* hearing will take place, if one has been requested.

FEES

You **cannot** be charged any costs or fees for filing, issuing, registering, modifying, enforcing, dismissing, withdrawing, serving, or obtaining a protection order.

DISCOVERY

Unless you have received an order from the Court regarding discovery, you have no obligation to comply with a deposition notice, interrogatories, request for production of documents, physical or mental examination, or request for admissions.

If ordered, the Court will indicate each of the following:

1. The time and place where discovery will be held;
2. The names of persons who can be in the room during discovery, including a victim advocate;
3. The necessary terms and conditions to keep everyone safe, including keeping the Petitioner’s address confidential.

Discovery must be completed prior to the full hearing.