

THE CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER HEARING

You **must** come to D.C. Superior Court for the Civil Protection Order Hearing once you have been served with the Petition and the Notice of Hearing and Order to Appear. If you don't come to the hearing, the Court may:

- ▶ **Grant** the Civil Protection Order.

AND

- ▶ Issue a **warrant** for your **arrest**.



You must follow these steps on the day of the hearing:

Step 1: Bring any information the judge will need to understand what happened.



Step 2: Come to D.C. Superior Court, 500 Indiana Ave., NW, First Floor, at 8:30 a.m. Check the Notice of Hearing and Order to Appear for the Courtroom number.

Step 3: Check-in at the desk outside the Courtroom.

Step 4: While at Court you are not to have any contact or communication with the petitioner. Any violation may subject you to arrest.

Step 5: Meet with an attorney-negotiator who works for the Court when your name is called. The attorney-negotiator will meet with you alone and discuss the petition and what the person who filed the petition has asked the Court to order. The attorney-negotiator also meets alone with the person who filed the petition.

After talking with the attorney-negotiator, you can:

- ▶ **Consent** to the Civil Protection Order and the conditions that may be negotiated as the attorney-negotiator meets separately with you and the person seeking protection.

Or

- ▶ **Request a hearing:** If you request a hearing, the hearing will be held that day. You do not have the right to a court-appointed attorney. You can hire an attorney. At the Civil Protection Order hearing, you will be asked to tell what happened.

Bring information that may help the judge decide the case. A few examples:



Is there a request for child support? If YES:

- ▶ **Read** the Notice of Hearing and Order to Appear that was given to you with the Petition.
- ▶ Bring **all** documents listed in the notice.

Were there witnesses? If YES:

- ▶ Bring the people who saw what happened.
- ▶ Bring the people who heard what was said.



Were you injured? If YES:

- ▶ Bring pictures showing your injuries.
- ▶ Bring papers from a doctor or hospital.



Was your property damaged or destroyed? If YES:

- ▶ Bring pictures showing any damage to your property.
- ▶ Bring receipts showing how much you paid for the damaged or destroyed property and when it was purchased.
- ▶ Bring estimates of the cost to replace or repair the property.

Did you receive voice messages, text messages or e-mails? If YES:

- ▶ Bring copies of text messages and e-mails.
- ▶ Bring any voice mail messages.



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