

Where

An action can be filed at the courthouse:

- In the county where you live;
- In the county where the abuse or stalking occurred; **or**
- In the county where the stalker/abuser may be served.



Ex Parte

After filing an action, if the judge finds you are in **immediate and present danger** of abuse or stalking, the court may issue an Ex Parte Order of Protection for no more than 15 days. Then a hearing will be held for the possibility of an order that can last up to one year.

Resources for Abuse Victims:

Kansas City Shelters

816-452-8535 Synergy Services

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)

816-407-3910 Sheriff's Team

Court Advocates

816-407-3869 Clay County
816-777-0356 ext. 204 Synergy Services

Prosecutor's Office

816-736-8325 Victim Advocate

Northland Resources

www.escapeabuse.org

Domestic Violence and the Law

www.mobar.org/publicinformation

Missouri Attorney General

www.MoSafeatHome.com

Family Court Services

www.circuit7.net/familycourt

Call **911** for emergencies.

Talk to a lawyer for legal advice.

Legal Aid of Western Missouri may provide free legal help. 816-474-6750



Orders of Protection



The Missouri Adult Abuse Act
Mo. Rev. Stat. §§455.005– 455.090

Under Missouri's Adult Abuse Act, you must meet the following requirements:

Age

You must be **one** of the following:

- At least 17 years old; **or**
- Emancipated.

Relationship

Are **one** of the following:

- Spouses or former spouses;
- Persons related by blood or marriage;
- Persons residing together or have resided with each other;
- Adults who have a child together regardless of marriage or cohabitation;
- Persons in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature; **or**
- The victim of stalking.

You must have been stalked or subjected to domestic violence to receive an order of protection.

Stalking

You have been stalked when the stalker:

- Purposely and repeatedly engaged in an unwanted pattern of conduct that caused a reasonable fear of physical harm.



Abuse

You have been abused when the abuser does **one** of the following:

- Placed or attempted to place you in fear of physical harm;
- Caused you physical harm;
- Forced or threatened to force you to engage in conduct you have a right to restrain or restrain you from conduct you have a right to engage;
- Caused you to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force or threat of force;
- Purposely engaged, more than once, in harassing conduct that causes you substantial emotional distress;
- Held, confined, detained or abducted you against your will.