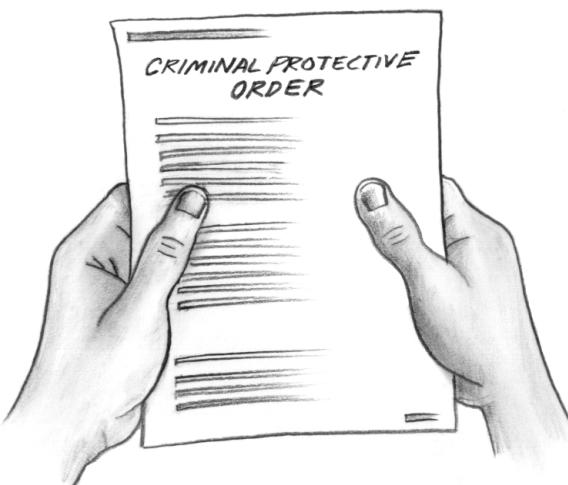


Criminal Protective Order

A Criminal Protective Order was issued against me.



What is a "Criminal Protective Order"?

It is a court order issued in a criminal case.

What does the order do?

It orders you to:

- not contact or go near the protected person *and*
- not have a gun

What if I violate the order?

The police can arrest you. You can go to jail.

How long does it last?

Look at the bottom of form MC-220, #7. This is the date the order ends.

The form is a 'PROTECTIVE ORDER IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDING (CLETS)' (Penal Code, § 136.2). It includes fields for the court name, defendant information, and case number. It specifies that the order takes precedence over any conflicting court order. The restrained person's details are listed, along with various compliance requirements. The order ends on a specific date, which is highlighted by an arrow pointing from the explanatory text above.

Can the protected person and I agree to cancel the order?

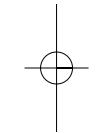
No. Only the judge can change or cancel the order.

What if the protected person contacts me?

No matter what, you have to follow the court order. The order does not affect what the protected person can do. It only affects what you can do.

Is the order valid outside of California?

Yes. The order is valid all over the United States, including U.S. territories and Indian lands.



Warning:
If you also have a family law case, see a lawyer.
Anything you say in that case can be used against
you in the criminal case. Tell the family law
judge that you also have a criminal case.

What about my children?

The Criminal Protective Order is not for custody, visitation, or child support. You can ask for these things in family court.

Will the police arrest me?

If the police think you have committed a crime, they can arrest you. If they think you have violated a protective order, they must arrest you.

What happens if I am arrested?

You will be "arraigned." You will stand in front of a judge. The judge will tell you what the charges are. If you are in jail, this happens within 48–72 hours. If you are not in jail, it can take several weeks.

Do I need a lawyer?

Yes. If you do not have enough money to hire a lawyer, the court will give you one at the arraignment.

What if I don't have a green card?

The order is valid whether you have a green card or not. If you are worried about being deported, talk to an immigration lawyer.

What if the protected person wants to drop the charges?

The City Attorney or District Attorney (D.A.)—not the protected person—decides if criminal charges will be filed against you. They will decide based on the facts in the police report.



Need more information?

- Go to: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/
selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)
- Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (24 hours):

1-800-799-7233

TDD: 1-800-787-3224

It's free and private.

They can help you in more than 100 languages.

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English
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