



Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

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RESTRAINING ORDERS

What is a domestic violence restraining order?

A domestic violence restraining order is an order that you get at Family Court to protect you from someone you have a close relationship with.

Who can get a domestic violence restraining order?

In California, **anyone over 12 years old** can apply for a restraining order.

But if I'm under 18, don't I need my parents' permission?

Nope. You can get a restraining order without your parents' permission.

Who can I get it against?

You can only get a domestic violence restraining order against someone you are **dating or used to date**, you **have a baby with**, who is a **close relative**, or **you live with**.

If someone else is harassing you, you may be able to get a civil harassment order against that person.

Can I get a restraining order that will protect my baby too?

Yes. You can ask that the judge include other people in your restraining order, like your baby, or your parents if they are in danger.

How much does a restraining order cost?

They are free!

Do I need evidence?

It's always better to have hard evidence, like police reports, text messages, or Facebook postings. But, if you are worried about your safety, **don't let not having any of these stop you**. Telling your story may be enough evidence to get a restraining order.

How do I get a restraining order?

You can apply for a restraining order at any Family Court in Los Angeles County. First, you tell the judge in writing why you want a restraining order. Then, you will be given a day to come back for a court hearing where you can present your evidence and talk to the judge.

Do I have to see a judge?

Probably. After you hand in your written request for a restraining order, you will be given a day to come back in about 3 weeks so you can tell your story to the judge.

Will the person who has been hurting me be there?

Maybe. You will have to make sure he/she gets a copy of your written request for the restraining order so he/she will know what you are saying and when the hearing is.

Wait...I have to tell him/her about it before I get the restraining order?

Yes, but usually the judge will give you a **temporary restraining order** based on your written application so you will be protected until the court hearing on the permanent restraining order.

Isn't a restraining order just a piece of paper?

A restraining order is a piece of paper, **but it can help.** It is a crime to violate a restraining order so you can call the police if the other person continues to bother you and they can be arrested for violating the restraining order.

***Even with a restraining order, you **should still plan** out what you will do if the other person continues to threaten you.

Want to speak with a lawyer?

Contact Teen/LA at (323) 980-3500

Who we serve:

People ages 13-24 living in Los Angeles County

What we do:

Answer your legal questions, help you with paperwork, even represent you in Court.

All of our services are **free** for those who qualify.

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