

## QUESTIONS ABOUT RESTRAINING ORDERS?

Restraining Order Office – 414-278-5079

Please leave your full name and a safe number where an advocate can call you back in a timely manner.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

Culturally Specific Support Services

**The Asha Project**  
414-252-0075

**Hmong American Women's Association**  
414-930-9352

**Latina Resource Center-UMOS**  
414-389-6500

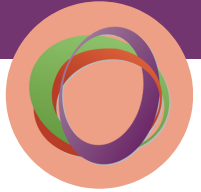
## SAFETY PLANNING

If your abuser cannot find you, they cannot kill or hurt you. Careful safety planning is necessary for avoiding surprise attacks. Consider the suggestions listed below that make sense for your situation. Take extra precautions when weapons are present and always be prepared and alert.

- Keep your purse, phone and keys ready in order to leave quickly
- Change locks on your doors as soon as possible
- Memorize important numbers
- Report threats/abuse to police
- Change your routine
- Teach children how to get help
- Do not initiate contact
- Take photographs of your injuries, torn clothing, broken property and furniture in disarray when it is safe to do so
- Call an Advocate to explore safety strategies

Sojourner 24-Hour Hotline & Crisis Shelter:  
Call: (414) 933-2722  
Text: (414) 877-8100

619 W. Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212  
[www.familypeacecenter.org](http://www.familypeacecenter.org)



# Sojourner Family Peace Center

## Finding Safety

Everything you need to know  
about Restraining Orders  
& Safety Planning



# What is a Restraining Order?

A restraining order is a court order against someone who has abused you or harassed you. The court can order the abuser not to hurt you physically or sexually, to stay away from you, to move out of the house, to have no contact with you and/or to stop harassing you.

## WILL IT PROTECT ME?

A restraining order helps to protect you, but it does not guarantee your safety. You need to follow a safety plan, especially if you believe that being arrested is not going to stop your abuser from trying to hurt you.

## HOW MUCH DOES A RESTRAINING ORDER COST?

Domestic Abuse restraining orders and Child Abuse restraining orders are free of charge. A fee is charged for Harassment restraining orders, but the court may waive that fee under certain circumstances.

## WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING A RESTRAINING ORDER?

Once your temporary restraining order (TRO) has been issued, the restraining order takes effect. The abuser can be arrested for violating the order only after the order has been served.

# Filing for a Restraining Order

## WHAT DO I NEED?

To file, the court requires you to provide the **full legal name** and **a valid address** for your abuser so the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department can serve the person harming you the restraining order in person.

## STEP ONE:

File for a Temporary Restraining Order online. The Milwaukee County Courthouse now requires all temporary restraining orders (TRO) to be filed electronically. The court will decide whether to issue a Temporary Restraining Order within one business day of the time you file.

## STEP TWO:

If a temporary order is granted, you will be given a date to come to the courthouse within two weeks for an in-person hearing to ask the order to be made into a final order or an Injunction. The abuser will need to be notified in person of the order and the court date. The abuser must be served the petition you filed with the court before the court can hold an Injunction hearing.

# How do I Obtain a Restraining Order?

Restraining Orders must be filed online. Advocates can help answer questions and provide support, as needed.

## I NEED HELP FILING A RESTRAINING ORDER

For assistance filing a restraining order, you can book a phone appointment or join Sojourner's virtual waitlist.

All advocate assistance with e-filing is now offered by phone. Scheduling an appointment reserves time for you to speak with an advocate by phone to help you file one order. Joining the waitlist adds you to a daily, virtual line to receive advocate support when an advocate is available.

Use the link or QR code below to **join our waitlist** or **book an appointment**:

[app.waitwhile.com/welcome/sojourner](https://app.waitwhile.com/welcome/sojourner)

