



**What is a Restraining Order?** A restraining order is a court order signed by a judge telling a defendant to have no further contact with the plaintiff (victim) in person, by phone, by mail or through electronic devices. A temporary order is issued ex parte (on the plaintiff's sworn testimony only). A final hearing will be held within ten days to give the accused the opportunity to defend themselves.

**Reliefs you may be granted with your restraining order are:** Exclusive possession of the residence, temporary custody of your children with a visitation schedule, emergency child support and roof expenses (housing/living), court ordered substance abuse evaluations and/or risk assessments and Batterer's Intervention Program.

**Who Can Get a Restraining Order?** You can apply if you have been the target of domestic violence and the following two conditions apply:

- 1) You shared one of the following relationships with the accused: Dating, married/divorced, have a child together, residing together or present or former household member.
- 2) The accused is 18 years of age or older (unless you have a child in common)

**180 Turning Lives Around** empowers survivors and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to find the courage and strength to turn their lives around.

**180 supports this mission through:**

- 24/7 hotlines; including the 2NDFLOOR Youth Text & Helpline
- Emergency Safe House
- Counseling
- Legal advocacy
- Crisis Response Teams
- Family Justice Center
- Art, play and music therapy for children



180 Turning Lives Around, Inc.  
1 Bethany Road  
Building 3, Suite 42  
Hazlet, NJ 07730  
732.264.4111

Family Court Liaison Program  
732.677.4332 or 732.677.4345

[www.180nj.org](http://www.180nj.org)



## FAMILY COURT LIAISON PROGRAM

*Providing technical assistance, system advocacy and emotional support to help victims of domestic violence through the legal system.*



**Family Court Liaison Program**  
at the Monmouth County Court House, Freehold, NJ  
732.677.4332 or 732.677.4345

**Domestic Violence Hotline**  
1.888.843.9262

**Sexual Violence Hotline**  
1.888.264.RAPE (7273)

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Texting Available**  
732.977.2832 (M-F 9:00-5:00) or  
732.977.2766 (evenings, weekends & holidays)

**2<sup>ND</sup> Floor Youth Helpline**  
1.888.222.2228

# FAMILY COURT LIAISON PROGRAM

The Family Court Liaison Program has knowledgeable and experienced staff available to provide consultation in obtaining or dropping a restraining order, information on court procedures and accompaniment for clients through the Freehold Family Court process.

## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior in which one person uses a variety of tactics, both physical and emotional, to gain and maintain power and control over his/her partner. Under the law the following is considered domestic violence:

- Homicide
- Assault
- Terroristic threats
- Kidnapping
- Criminal restraint
- False imprisonment
- Sexual assault
- Criminal sexual contact
- Lewdness
- Criminal mischief
- Burglary
- Criminal trespass
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Criminal coercion
- Robbery
- Cyber Harassment
- Contempt of a domestic violence order
- Any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act"



## What if I Have Never Been Hit or Beaten?

Domestic violence is a crime that encompasses more than physical abuse. Under the law it includes emotional, mental and sexual abuse.

All too often victims of domestic violence minimize the emotional/mental abuse that they have suffered, and are not aware that they are entitled to help and protection.

*You may be granted a restraining order for the emotional/mental abuse you have endured if it includes:*

**Harassment** - shoving, pushing, or other offensive touching. Name-calling and/or language used to alarm, offend or annoy, purposely intimidating behavior to instill fear or alarm.

**Criminal Mischief** - damaging, breaking or destroying personal property or purposely or recklessly causing damage to property to endanger another person.

**Terroristic Threats** - threats of physical violence or death with the intention of causing fear and/or dictating the victim's behavior.

*180 affirms its commitment to serving all persons and representing the broad diversity of all communities.*

## Where Do You Apply for a Restraining Order?

- ⇒ **Weekdays 8:30 am - 3:30 pm:** At the Domestic Violence Unit of the Family Division, Superior Court, Freehold, NJ.
- ⇒ **Weekdays after 3:30 pm, Weekends/Holidays:** At any NJ police department. There is a Judge on-call to take testimony over the phone.

*A judge will decide if there is jurisdiction to grant you a restraining order. If you are afraid or believe you are in danger, you should not hesitate to ask for protection.*

## When Does the Restraining Order Take Effect?

The restraining order becomes enforceable once the defendant has been served the appropriate paperwork. Until that time, the defendant cannot be held accountable for violating (disobeying) the order.

**Local law enforcement is responsible for the service for the defendant. Never attempt to serve the defendant yourself.**

When the defendant receives the restraining order they will know:

- What your allegations are against them
- What restrictions have been placed on them
- The date and time of the final hearing

## Do I Need to Bring Anything to the Final Hearing?

Bring any documentation you have regarding the domestic violence incident:

**Eyewitnesses to the incident:** Individual must come in person. Written or taped testimony from witnesses is not admissible.

**Admissible evidence:** Defendant's letters, answering machine/voicemail recordings, cards, printed e-mails and/or text messages, photos of injuries or property damage.

**Receipts/documentation:** For any medical expenses/property damage you incurred you may ask for compensation.