

Which one is right for me?

Order for Protection:

An Order for Protection is an order signed by a judge that may help protect you from domestic abuse.

You may apply for an Order for Protection if domestic abuse has occurred AND it involves family or household members.

Harassment Restraining Order:

A Harassment Restraining Order is an order from the Court that prohibits harassment and may be issued against an individual or an organization. Anyone may apply for a harassment restraining order if they believe there have been acts that meet the definition of harassment AND there is likelihood the harassment will continue.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Emergency: 911

Crisis Resource Center:

507-451-1202 or Toll free: 1-800-451-1202

MN Prairie County Alliance:

[http://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/human_resources_\(mnprairie\)/index.php](http://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/human_resources_(mnprairie)/index.php)

<http://www.mnprairie.org/>

MN Courts:

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Domestic-Abuse-and-Harassment.aspx>

Owatonna Police Department:

<http://www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/police>

Steele County Attorney's Office:

http://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/attorney_office.php

Steele County Courthouse:

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/steele.aspx>

Steele County Sheriff's Office:

http://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/sheriff_office/index.php

Harassment Restraining Order and Order for Protection

Information for residents of
Steele County, Minnesota

Case Number:

Officer:

Harassment Restraining Order

Under Minn. Stat. § 609.748, harassment is defined as:

- Single incident of physical or sexual assault
- Repeated incidents of intrusive or unwanted acts, words or gestures that have a substantial adverse effect or are intended to have a substantial adverse effect on the safety, security, or privacy of another, regardless of the relationship between petitioner and the alleged harasser
- Targeted residential picketing
- A pattern of attending public events after being notified that one's presence is harassing to another

To file in Steele County, one of the following must apply:

- Respondent lives in Steele County
- Alleged harassment occurred in Steele County

To apply:

Fill out the Petitioner's Affidavit and petition for Restraining Order at the Steele County Courthouse.

There may be a cost to apply for a Harassment Restraining Order. The fee may be waived by a judicial officer.

Common terms and abbreviations

Petitioner: the person filing the order

Respondent: the person the order is against

HRO: Harassment Restraining Order

OFP: Order for Protection

What are the steps to filing for an HRO or an OFP?

1. File the correct forms with the court administrator.
2. Judge reviews the request
3. Order is granted or a hearing is scheduled
4. If an order is granted, Respondent is served.

Important: If you move, it is important that the court knows where you are. Please keep the court administrator informed of your address.

Order for Protection

You may apply for an Order for Protection if domestic abuse has occurred AND if the petitioner and respondent are family or household members.

Where May the Petitioner Apply?

- In the county where the petitioner lives
- In the county where the respondent lives
- In the county where the abuse occurred
- In any county where there is a pending family court case involving the petitioner and the respondent
- In the court with jurisdiction over divorce actions

To apply:

Fill out the Petitioner's Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection at the Steele County Courthouse.

There is no cost to apply for an Order for protection.