



Calling the Police

When someone has injured you or violated a restraining order, criminal stay-away order or emergency protective order, do the following:

1. Call the police at 911, if it is an emergency. Tell them you are in danger and you need help immediately. Let them know if you have a court order. If the police does not come quickly, call again and say "This is my second call". Note the time and date of your call(s).
2. When the police arrives, tell them only what the attacker did. Describe your injuries, how you were injured or how he violated a restraining order, and if the attacker used weapons. If he has violated a restraining order, show the police your order and any proof of service. Ask that the police file a report and give you a report number.
3. If the police refuses to make an arrest, you may ask to make a private person's arrest. Tell the officers that the attacker will come back and beat you unless they make an arrest or allow you to make a private person's arrest. If the police makes an arrest and takes the attacker into custody, you should be aware that the attacker could be released within a few hours. You can use those hours to get to a safer place.
4. If you don't have a restraining order, ask the officer for an Emergency Protective Order. This is an order that may protect you until you obtain a criminal stay-away order or restraining order.
5. Always get the police officers' names and badge numbers. If you have trouble with a police officer, you can complain directly to the Chief of Police or the officer's supervisor.
6. If the attacker or violator is arrested and taken to the police station, this is what may happen: he may be charged and he will probably be released on bail or, in certain circumstances without bail until the hearing. Ask the condition of his release be that he should not come near you. This process may take anywhere between 2 – 48 hours.
7. If the attacker is not arrested you should call the prosecutor or police department (in the county where the abuse occurred) to inquire about how to follow up with your complaint.