

CAMERON COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

About Emergency Protective Orders:

You have applied for what is called a “**Magistrate’s Order for Emergency Protection**”. The Judge may order the arrested person not to go to certain places (your home, your work, children’s schools or child care addresses), not to threaten or harass you, or commit further acts of violence against you. This order is only issued if the person who is suspected of committing family violence against you is arrested for an offense involving family violence.

If the arrested person is in custody for an offense that involves Family Violence with serious bodily injury or in which a weapon was used, the judge, in accordance with Texas Law, will issue an Emergency Protective Order, regardless of whether you request one.

If the judge grants the order, it will be effective **immediately** after the judge signs it and will be in effect for not less than 31 days and not more than 61 days.

Once the order is signed, the judge will not change it or cancel it for any reason. If the arrested person violates the order in any way, they may be subject to arrest and further criminal charges.

You may not give the person permission to come to your home or work, or to go to the addresses for the children’s schools if the Judge orders the arrested person not to go to those places. If the order conflicts with other court orders having to do with visitation, the Emergency Protective Order prevails while it is in effect.

In order to make a fair decision, the judge may want to speak with you if at all possible. **Please give the officer a phone number where you can be reached on the morning after the arrest.** You may talk to the judge and explain why you need protection against the arrested person. You can call the District Attorney’s Office Crime Victims Unit in Brownsville/574-8153 or 574-8154 or Harlingen/427-8048 to find out if the order has been granted. You may also make arrangements to pick up the order.

If the order is granted, the judge will mail you a copy of the order. You should keep copy of the order with you at all times.

Remember, your safety is of the utmost importance. Contact Victim Assistance, or The Friendship of Women, or Family Crisis Center if you need help with safety planning, or if you have questions about the Emergency Protective Order.

**District Attorney’s Office Crime Victims Unit/Brownsville: 574-8153 or 574-8154 / Harlingen: 427-8048
The Friendship of Women / Brownsville Hot Line 544-7412
Family Crisis Center / Harlingen Hot Line 423-9304**

You may also wish to apply for a full Protective Order. These orders are granted in Civil Court, and usually require the assistance of an attorney. A full protective order can be granted for up to two years. It can take two to four weeks to get this kind of order. If you are interested in applying for a Protective Order, please contact your attorney, **The Friendship of women, or The Family Crisis Center, or Crime Victims Unit**, for information about how to obtain a full Protective Order. The Women’s Shelter’s number is answered 24 hours a day.

Agency: _____ Case# _____

(02/05)