

Whether you are married to, living with, or dating the person who hurt you, regardless of your sexual orientation, **you have the right to be safe and free from fear and threat of violence.**

The Nantucket Police Department and A Safe Place are committed to working together to end family violence in the Nantucket community. Whether you are at the police station or A Safe Place, someone from either agency is available to you at any time.

This pamphlet was created to help answer some of your questions about protection from your assailant.

What is an Order of Protection?

Every resident has the right to apply for an Order of Protection (also called a “restraining order” or “209A”) through any Court, when they are in fear for their safety because of physical harm or the threat of physical harm from a household member, relative, dating partner or spouse.

How do I apply for the Order?

During business hours: at the Office of the Clerk
Magistrate of Nantucket District Court

After business hours: at the Nantucket Police Dept.

How long does the application take?

Generally 30 minutes to an hour; it could take longer given different circumstances.

Who can help me with the application process?

An Advocate from A Safe Place can help:

- Explain the process
- Be with you at the Courthouse or Police Station
- Provide information about safety options for you and your children
- Provide support during a time that is often difficult or confusing for many people

What happens next?

If your application for an Order of Protection is granted, you will get a copy of the Emergency Order.

- Keep that copy with you at all times
- The Police will serve the abuser with a copy of the Order and can let you know when that has happened.
- The Police and Advocate will explain the conditions of the Order, which may include the abuser leaving the house or apartment.

When is it OK to go home?

Talk with the Police and Advocate to make sure you and your children are safe to go home.



What else do I have to do?

Attend a Hearing:

- Within 10 days there will be a Hearing at the Courthouse. The date and time of that hearing is listed on your Order of Protection.
- You will need to be at Court on that date.
- A Safe Place Advocate can be with you.
- Though your Hearing may be a short time, you need to count on being available at Court for generally 2-3 hours.

Do I need an attorney?

You do not need an attorney to apply for an Emergency Order of Protection or to attend the Hearing in District Court. You can have an attorney if you choose and A Safe Place Advocate can help you with those options.

What other things should I know?

- If you do not appear at the Hearing, the Order will expire on that date.
- You can modify or change the Order at any time by applying to the Court for a modification. A Safe Place Advocate can help you assess safety and other considerations if you think you would like to or need to modify the Order.

Will my name be in the newspaper?

Your name should not appear in the newspaper. If the abuser is charged with a crime, such as assault and battery, the abuser’s name will appear at some point in the paper.

Many people do not want to go to Court because it feels so public. It can feel confusing and difficult.

Always remember, you have every right to feel safe and ask for protection for yourself and your children. A Safe Place Advocate can help you.

Does it cost any money?

The Order of Protection does not cost any money.

Am I really protected?

There is never a 100% guarantee of protection. You, better than anyone, will know if the abuser will abide by the Order; if you have any thoughts or concerns about your safety or the abuser’s behavior, do not hesitate to talk with the Police.

What is important is that you are doing everything you can to keep yourself and your children safe.

What is a violation?

In the Order of Protection, there are several conditions specific to your situation. A Safe Place Advocate can help explain those conditions.

If the abuser violates any of those conditions or you are unsure whether a violation occurred, please call the Police immediately – 911.

Will the abuser go to jail or have a record?

The Restraining Order alone is not a criminal charge; it is a civil order of the Court. However, if the abuser committed a crime such as assault and battery, that process will be different and depending on the outcome of the court case, the abuser may have a record.

Always remember

This is about your courage to say that you and your children have a right to be safe and free from fear.

No one can cause another person to commit a crime. Any crime the abuser committed was the abuser’s choice ... you did not make him/her do it.

Please call with any other questions or concerns you may have.

**Nantucket Police Department
508-228-1212
911**



A Safe Place, Inc.
Nantucket, MA

Located at 5B Windy Way
24-hour Hotline: 508-228-2111
Office: 508-228-0561 ♦ FAX: 508-228-8825
TTY/V: 508-228-7095
(Monday- Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Email: info@asafeplacenantucket.org
Llámanos y Hablemos:
1-800-223-5001 TTY: 1-888-887-7130
Línea directa para sobrevivientes de abuso sexual
MA Relay 711



All services are free and confidential

Have you been hurt or made to feel afraid by someone you care about?



What can you do?