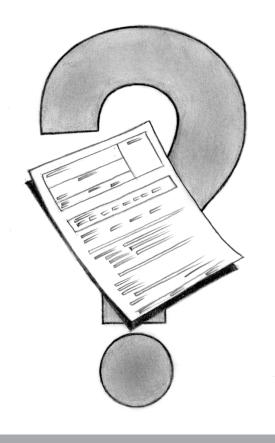
### **Criminal Protective Order**

### How does a Criminal **Protective Order** help me?



#### What is a "Criminal Protective Order"?

It is a court order that protects you from the defendant in a criminal case.

#### How does it protect me?

If you or your children were witnesses or victims of violence, the defendant must not:

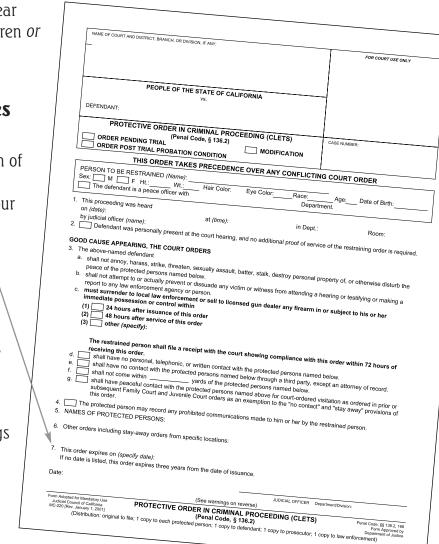
- contact or go near you or the children or
- have a gun

#### How long does it last?

Look at the bottom of form MC-220, #7. This is the date your order ends.

#### What about my children?

The Criminal Protective Order is not for custody, visitation, or child support. You can ask for these things in family court.



#### What if the defendant doesn't obey the order?

He or she can be arrested and charged with a crime.

No. Only the judge can change or cancel the order.

Yes. The order is valid all over the United States, including U.S. territories and Indian lands. If you leave California, contact your new state's court or local police department. Ask them how they will enforce your order.

#### What if I don't want the order?

Tell the District Attorney (D.A.) and the judge. But the judge may issue the order anyway.

#### Can I agree with the defendant to cancel the order?

#### Is the order valid outside of California?



# What if I don't have a green card?

The order is valid whether you have a green card or not.

#### How can I find out when the defendant gets out of jail?

Tell the police or the D.A. that you want to know when the defendant gets out of jail. Call your local probation department or sheriff and ask when the defendant will get out.

#### Should I call 911?

Call 911 if you are in danger or afraid, or if the defendant violated a restraining order. When the police come, tell them what happened. Tell them about any restraining orders, injuries, threats, and weapons, and if there were witnesses.

#### What will the police do?

They will investigate and write an "incident report." You can get a free copy from the police department.

#### Can I get more legal protection?

Yes. Ask for a Civil Restraining Order in family court. The judge can order the defendant to:

- stay away from you, your children, relatives, or others who live with you
- not contact you
- move out of your house

- follow child custody, visitation, and child support orders
- pay certain bills
- go to counseling

## Will the police make an arrest?

If the police think a crime was committed, they can make an arrest. If they think the defendant violated a protective order, they must arrest him or her. If they do not make an arrest, you can ask the DA to file criminal charges instead.

#### What if I was raped?

Call the police. Don't wash yourself or your clothing until after the police come. Sexual assault is a crime, even if the defendant is your spouse or someone you know.

#### Can I sue the defendant?

Yes. You can sue for medical costs, lost wages, or other costs related to the abuse. Go to family court for help. You can also sue for money. Talk to a lawyer.

#### Need more help?

Call Victim Witness Assistance at **1-800-777-9229** 

They will help you get money for medical bills, lost wages, and counseling for you and your children. They can also get you food, clothing, a place to stay, transportation, and someone to be with you in court.

#### Need more information?

Go to: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp
Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (24 hours):

### 1-800-799-7233

#### TDD: 1-800-787-3224

It's free and private.

They can help you in more than 100 languages.

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