

# Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

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## Types of Protective Orders

A **Family Abuse Protective Order** can be issued when there is an act or threat that results in injury or reasonable fear of injury done by a family or household member. A “family or household member” includes these people:

- Your spouse or your former spouse.
- Your parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and grandchildren.
- If they live in your home, your father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law. However if you and your partner are unmarried, your "in-laws" would be covered under the Non-Family Abuse Protective Order.
- The other parent of your child.
- Anyone who lives in your home in a partner relationship.
- Anyone who has lived in your home in the last year in a partner relationship.

A **Non-Family Abuse Protective Order** can be issued when there is an act or threat that results in injury or reasonable fear of injury done by anyone else. This includes, but is not limited to, victims of dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, no matter if there is any relationship between the victim and the abuser. This also includes the so-called "in-laws" of unmarried couples.

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