

# ABOUT US

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The Center for Arkansas Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm founded in 1965 that provides free civil (non-criminal) legal services to low-income Arkansans. Since that time, we have assisted thousands of survivors with their family law needs.

# WE CAN HELP

## CONTACT US

Helpline: 501-376-3423  
Monday - Friday  
[www.ArkansasLegal.org](http://www.ArkansasLegal.org)



If you need an order of protection, you can call our Helpline for more information and assistance.

An Order of Protection is a different process from a divorce, separation, or criminal charges.

An order of Protection is helpful, but it does not guarantee your safety. It is important to make a safety plan, so you know the options that are available to you and to know what to do in case of an emergency.



CENTER FOR ARKANSAS  
LEGAL SERVICES

— Equal Justice for All —

# ORDERS OF PROTECTION

A COURT DOCUMENT THAT MAY BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU FROM PHYSICAL ABUSE OF A ROMANTIC PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBER



## RELATIONSHIP

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- Spouse or former spouse
- Partner or former partner
- Currently or formerly living together
- Unrelated children in the household
- In-laws
- Parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, and cousins

## STEPS

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- Obtain a Petition for Order of Protection from the Circuit Clerk or Prosecutor's office in the county where you live
- Complete the petition and complete an affidavit
- Bring your ID and get the petition notarized by the clerk
- File the petition with the clerk (there is no fee)
- Go to the hearing

## REMEMBER

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- Keep a copy of the order with you at all times
- Keep a copy of the order at any address you may need it such as work, school, daycare, and church
- Call the police immediately if the abuser shows up or tries to contact you



**YOU DO NOT  
DESERVE TO  
BE HURT,  
THREATENED,  
OR LIVE IN FEAR.**

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## HEARING

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While you may be granted a temporary order of protection for 30 days without a hearing, you will need to attend a hearing on extending the order every 30 days until the abuser is served.

If possible bring:

- A witness
- Documents such as medical bills, police reports, or text messages
- Photos of your injuries or property damage
- Video or audio recordings of abuse

Bring extra copies of your evidence and have it ready to go when the hearing begins.

Dress for church and be polite. Prepare for your abuser to be present. You can bring a friend or family member for support.

