

Domestic Abuse Orders for Protection

Victims of domestic violence may seek an Order for Protection (OFP) from the Todd County District Court. It is not necessary for a victim to report the violence to Law Enforcement to request an OFP, but the Todd County Sheriff's Office strongly recommends that they do. This allows the criminal justice system to intervene in the situation.

Domestic abuse occurs to family or household member(s) if committed by a family or household member.

Family or household member(s) include:

- A spouse or former spouse;
- Parents and children;
- Person(s) related by blood; person(s) currently residing together or have resided together in the past;
- A man or woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time;
- And person(s) involved in a significant sexual relationship.

An adult may file a Petition for Protection on behalf of any victim who is a minor; or is considered vulnerable because of mental deficiency, or is of advanced age.

Anyone seeking an OFP should contact the Hands of Hope Resource Center at PO Box 171, Long Prairie, MN 56347 or by phone at (320) 732-2319; toll free (888) 732-2319. Hands of Hope can also be contacted by e-mail at www.advocates@handsofhope.net

The Hands of Hope Resource Center will assist in the preparation of the Affidavit and Petition necessary to obtain an OFP.

If an OFP is granted, it will be forwarded to the Todd County Sheriff's Office for service. The Sheriff's Office will arrange for service within Todd County. If the respondent lives in another county, the Todd County Sheriff's Office will fax the order to the appropriate Sheriff's Office for service.

The Court Administrator does not charge a fee for filing an OFP and the Todd County Sheriff's Office does not charge a fee for service of an OFP.