



OFFICE OF
VictimWitnessAdvocacy
Union County Prosecutor's Office

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Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

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www.ucnj.org/prosecutor/departments/victimwitness-unit/

Frequently Asked Questions on Restraining Orders During COVID-19



Union County Cherry Annex (Family Division) located at 2 Cherry St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(908)787-1650 www.njcourts.com ***The Building is currently not open to the Public***

What is the purpose of a Restraining Order?

A restraining order is a civil order handled in Family Court. It prohibits the abuser from having any contact with victim, including over the telephone, in person, or electronically (phone calls, text messages, social media or e-mails)

What happens after Restraining Order is Granted?

If Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) is Granted you will be granted protections listed on your TRO document for 10 days and given a court date to follow for Final Restraining Order (FRO) hearing.

What Happens If Plaintiff Wants To Dismiss Restraining Order?

For further instructions on this process please Contact

Union County Family Division DV Unit:

908-787-1650 Ext: 21270

What Happens if Municipal Court Judge denies my TRO at the Police Department?

When a Plaintiff is denied a TRO by the Municipal Court Judge, Law Enforcement Officer can facilitate the process for the Plaintiff to receive a same-day De Novo hearing with a Superior Court Judge outside of regular court hours. Then Superior Court Judge will make final decision on TRO.

Police Departments are facilitating (supposed to be) same day De Novo hearings with a Superior Court Judge also during regular court hours.

How Do I Apply For A Restraining Order (RO)?

Currently, there are three options on where to obtain RO:

- Plaintiff may call TRO hotline established by Union County Family Court during business hours and after hours at 908-787-1650 Ext 21710-English speaking and Ext 21720-Spanish speaking.
- If the TRO is emergent during business hours Plaintiff can go directly to Union County Family Court to file for a TRO.
- At anytime Plaintiff can go to the police department where they live, where they are currently sheltered, where the domestic violence happened or where the other party lives.

How will the Final Restraining Order (FRO) Hearing take place now?

Both parties will receive a letter from Family Court through regular and certified mail. Additionally, days prior to the FRO hearing Court Staff will contact Parties to confirm contact info and provide virtual platform (Zoom Meeting) info for FRO hearing.

What Happens At The Final Restraining Order Hearing?

- Follow the instructions provided by Court Staff.
- The Judge will hear testimony from both Parties, cross examination questions, and review evidence presented.
- The Judge will decide whether a FRO should be issued.