

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A CIVIL STALKING OR SEXUALLY ORIENTED OFFENSE PROTECTION ORDER (SSOPO)

These instructions are intended to assist you in preparing the Petition for a Civil Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order (SSOPO), which can only be heard by the Common Pleas Court in your county. Throughout the petition you are called *Petitioner* and the person you are filing this petition against is called *Respondent*.

## SOME HINTS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- All forms must be typed or printed.
- When you print your name on the Petition, use the same name you use when you write your signature.
- Write your name and Respondent's name the same way throughout the Petition.
- Fill out the Petition as completely and accurately as possible.
- If you have any questions about completing the Petition, ask the clerk of court's office for assistance or contact your local domestic violence program or the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at 800-934-9840.
- Under Federal and State Law no fees may be charged to obtain a protection order.

## FILLING OUT THE PETITION: Mark each instruction below after you read and complete it

- On the front page, leave the "Case No." line and "Judge" lines blank. The clerk of court's office will fill in this information.
- On the top left-hand side of the front page, fill in the requested information about yourself. If you do not want your present address to be known, write "confidential" in the space for your address, but list someone else's address where you can receive notices from the court.
- Also on the top left-hand side of the front page, fill in the requested information about Respondent as best you can. You may use Respondent's work address if you do not know Respondent's home address. If you do not know Respondent's date of birth, leave that line blank. Do not attempt to obtain this information unless it is safe to do so.
- Paragraph 1: If you are filing the Petition on behalf of yourself, mark the first box.
- Paragraph 2: If you are filing the Petition on behalf of a family or household member, mark the box and fill in their name(s) and the other information requested in the chart. You may attach additional pages if you need more room.
- Paragraph 3: State the date(s) of the incident(s) that brought you to file the Petition. If you are requesting a stalking protection order provide a brief description of the pattern of conduct (two or more instances) that caused you to believe that the Respondent will cause physical harm or cause mental distress to you or another family member. If you are requesting a sexually oriented offense protection order, you do not have to provide a description of a pattern of conduct, only a brief description of what happened that caused you to request the sexually oriented offense protection order. (NOTE: Petitioner and or Respondent need not be related in any way for Petitioner to obtain either type of protection order.) If you are aware of any prior convictions of the Respondent for menacing by stalking or similar offenses, or prior convictions of Respondent for any sexually oriented offenses, list what information you know about those convictions. You may attach additional pages if you need more room to complete your description.
- Paragraph 4: Indicate the action you want the court to take by marking the boxes next to the numbered paragraphs that apply to your situation.
- Paragraph 4 (f): Write any special court orders you believe would help protect you and your family or household members.
- Paragraph 5: Be sure to mark the box next to Paragraph 5 if you need an emergency ("*ex parte*") protection order.
- Paragraph 9: List ALL present or past court cases or investigations that involve Respondent. This includes all criminal, divorce, custody, visitation, and any other case that may have a bearing on the safety of you or your family or household members. Write the case name, the court, the case number, and the outcome of the case, if known. You may attach additional pages if you need more room.

**SIGNING THE PETITION:** Try to fill out the Petition before you go to the courthouse. AFTER YOU HAVE FILLED OUT THE PETITION, TAKE IT TO A NOTARY PUBLIC TO HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE NOTARIZED. **DO NOT SIGN THE PETITION UNLESS YOU ARE IN FRONT OF A NOTARY PUBLIC.** An employee of the Clerk of Courts office may be available to take your oath.

**FILING THE PETITION:** After you have your signature notarized, file your Petition at the clerk of court's office. The Clerk of Court's office will tell you when and where your *ex parte* hearing will take place. **There is no filing fee for a Petition for a CSPO.**

## FEES

Under Federal and State Law, you cannot be charged any costs or fees for obtaining a protection order.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
 COUNTY, OHIO

Petitioner	:	Case No. _____
Address	:	Judge _____
City, State, Zip Code	:	<b>PETITION FOR CIVIL STALKING OR SEXUALLY ORIENTED OFFENSE PROTECTION ORDER (SSOPO) (R.C. 2903.214)</b>
Date Of Birth: _____	:	<b>Notice to Petitioner:</b> Throughout this form, check every <input type="checkbox"/> that applies.
v.	:	<b>Do NOT write your address at left or below if you are requesting confidentiality.</b>
Respondent	:	<b>The Respondent does NOT have to be related to Petitioner in any way in order for Petitioner to be eligible for relief.</b>
Address	:	
City, State, Zip Code	:	
Date Of Birth: _____	:	

1. Petitioner seeks relief on Petitioner's own behalf .

2. Petitioner seeks relief on behalf of the following family or household members:

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	HOW RELATED TO PETITIONER

Ohio law defines Menacing by Stalking as follows:

*"No person by engaging in a pattern of conduct shall knowingly cause another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the other person or cause mental distress to the other person."* R.C. 2903.211(A)(1).

*"No person, through the use of any electronic method of remotely transferring information, including, but not limited to, any computer, computer network, computer program, or computer system, shall post a message with purpose to urge or incite another to commit a violation of division (A) (1) of this section (above)"* R.C. 2903.211 (A)(2).

*Sexually oriented offenses are defined in Revised Code Section 2950.01.*

3. Petitioner states that Respondent has engaged in the following act(s) which create an immediate and present danger. For either (a) or (b) below attach additional paper if you need more room:

- (a) For a civil stalking protection order, describe the nature and extent of the pattern of conduct that causes you to believe that Respondent will cause you physical harm or causes (or has caused) mental distress. Also describe any previous convictions of Respondent for the crime of Menacing by Stalking if known.

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- (b) For a sexually oriented offense protection order, describe the acts of Respondent as fully as possible. You do not need to include any pattern of conduct information for a sexually oriented offense protection order.

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4. Petitioner requests that the Court grant relief under Ohio Revised Code 2903.214 for the safety and protection of the Petitioner and the family or household members named in this Petition by granting a Civil Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order that:

- (a) Requires Respondent not to abuse the Petitioner and the family or household members named in this Petition by harming, attempting to harm, threatening, following, stalking, harassing, contacting, forcing sexual relations upon them, or by committing sexually oriented offenses against them.
- (b) Requires Respondent to refrain from entering the residence, school, business, place of employment, or day care centers of Petitioner and the family or household members named in this Petition, including the buildings, grounds and parking lots at those locations.
- (c) Requires Respondent not to interfere with Petitioner's right to occupy the residence including, but not limited to canceling any utilities, insurance, interrupting phone service, mail delivery, or the delivery of any other documents or items.
- (d) Requires Respondent not to remove, damage, hide or dispose of any property or pets owned or possessed by the Petitioner and Petitioner's family or household members named in this Petition.
- (e) Requires Respondent not to possess, use, carry, or obtain any deadly weapon.
- (f) Includes the following additional provisions: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 5. Petitioner further requests that the Court issue an *ex parte* (emergency) protection order under Ohio Revised Code 2903.214(D) and this Petition.

- 6. Petitioner further requests that the Court not issue any mutual protection orders or other orders against Petitioner unless all of the conditions of R.C. 2903.214(E)(3) are met.
- 7. Petitioner further requests that if Petitioner has a victim advocate, the court permit the victim advocate to accompany Petitioner at all stages of these proceedings as required by R.C. 2903.214(L).
- 8. Petitioner further requests that the Court grant such other relief as the Court considers equitable and fair.
- 9. The following is a list of all present and past court cases involving Respondent, that Petitioner knows of:

CASE NAME	CASE NUMBER	COURT/COUNTY	OUTCOME OF CASE

I hereby swear or affirm that the answers above are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsifying this document may result in a contempt of court finding against me which could result in a jail sentence and fine, and that falsifying this document may also subject me to criminal penalties for perjury under Ohio Revised Code 2921.11.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER

Address where Petitioner can be contacted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Attorney for Petitioner (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney Registration Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number