

Types of Protective Orders in Vermont

| Type of request | Who can ask for the order? | What <i>may</i> be included in the order? | When can the request be filed? Where is the request filed? |
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| <p>Relief From Abuse (RFA) 15 VSA § 1101 et seq.</p> | <p>A family or household member has abused you or your children.</p> <p>Abuse includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tried to cause harm • Caused physical harm • Made you afraid of imminent physical harm • Child abuse • Stalking • Sexual assault • Coercive controlling behavior <p>You can ask for an order for yourself and your minor child, or for an order just on behalf of your minor child.</p> <p>Anyone 16 or older can file a request on their own behalf.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No abuse • Stay away • No contact • No firearms • No stalking or sexual assault • Vacate residence • Stay away from residence • Custody of children • No cruel treatment of pets • Temporary possession of pets • Possession of personal property • Return personal documents • Temporary possession of vehicle • Require defendant to take a domestic violence accountability program | <p>The request can be filed at any time, including nights, weekends, and holidays.</p> <p>Call 800-540-9990 for help with an emergency request after court business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm).</p> <p>The request is filed with the Family Division of the Superior Court.</p> |
| <p>Order Against Stalking 12 VSA § 5131 et seq.</p> | <p>Someone other than a family or household member has stalked you or your children.</p> <p>Stalking is when a person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purposely follows, monitors, surveils, threatens to hurt you, or interferes with your property. There must be at least 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contact • Stay away, which means the defendant may not knowingly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiate or maintain a physical presence near the plaintiff. | <p>The request can be filed during court business hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.</p> <p>The request is filed with the Civil Division of the Superior Court.</p> |

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| | <p>incidents. Calling you names or telling lies about you is not stalking. or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses an electronic tracking device to surveil you or your online activity continuously for 12 hours or more without your authorization. <p>The behavior must be serious enough that a reasonable person would fear for their physical safety or the safety of a family member, or it would cause them to suffer substantial emotional distress.</p> <p>Stalking can include phone calls, mail, email, social media comments, faxes, and written notes.</p> <p>You can ask for an order for yourself, or for an order on behalf of your minor child. Anyone 16 or older can file a request on their own behalf.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff directly or indirectly. • engage in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff through third parties who may or may not know of the order. <p>For example, the defendant may not talk to, call, text, mail, email, or use any other form of communication to make contact with the plaintiff. They may not ask other people to give the plaintiff messages from the defendant.</p> | |
| <p>Order Against Sexual Assault 12 VSA § 5131 et seq.</p> | <p>Someone other than a family or household member has sexually assaulted you or your children.</p> <p>Sexual assault includes these criminal acts, and the person asking for protection was the victim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewd and lascivious conduct • Lewd and lascivious conduct with a child • Sexual assault | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contact • Stay away, which means the defendant may not knowingly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiate or maintain a physical presence near the plaintiff. • engage in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff directly or indirectly. | <p>The request can be filed at any time, including nights, weekends, and holidays.</p> <p>Call 800-540-9990 for help with an emergency request after court business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm).</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravated sexual assault • Using a child in sexual performance • Consenting to a sexual performance by a child <p>You can ask for an order for yourself, or for an order on behalf of your minor child. Anyone 16 or older can file a request on their own behalf.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in nonphysical contact with the plaintiff through third parties who may or may not know of the order. <p>For example, the defendant may not talk to, call, text, mail, email, or use any other form of communication to make contact with the plaintiff. They may not ask other people to give the plaintiff messages from the defendant.</p> | <p>The request is filed with the Civil Division of the Superior Court.</p> |
| <p>Relief From Abuse (RFA) for Vulnerable Adult 33 VSA § 6931 et seq.</p> | <p>An interested person believes a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, or you are a vulnerable adult who is being abused, neglected or exploited.</p> <p>Interested persons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agent of the vulnerable person acting under a power of attorney or an advanced directive • A court-appointed guardian • Adult Protective Services • Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) <p>See the Relief from Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult web page</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No abuse, neglect or exploitation • Stay away • No contact • No threatening, assaulting, molesting, or interfering with personal liberty • No firearms • Vacate household • Stay away from residence • No following | <p>The request can be filed at any time, including nights, weekends, and holidays.</p> <p>Call 800-540-9990 for help with an emergency request after court business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm).</p> <p>The request is filed with the Family Division of the Superior Court.</p> |

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| | for definitions of vulnerable adult, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. | | |

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| <p>Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)</p> <p>13 VSA 4051 et seq.</p> | <p>You believe a family or household member poses an imminent and extreme risk of harming themselves or others.</p> | <p>Temporarily prohibits them from buying, having, or receiving firearms or explosives.</p> | <p>The request can be filed at any time, including nights, weekends, and holidays.</p> <p>Call 800-540-9990 for help with an emergency request after court business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm).</p> <p>The request is filed with the Family Division of the Superior Court.</p> |
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