

Family Violence

Family violence is defined as:

- *Wilfully or knowingly placing, or attempting to place, a family member in fear of hurt*
- *Causing hurt to a family member by an act which is known or ought to have been known will result in hurt*
- *Wrongful confining or restraining a family member against his will; or*
- *Continual harassment with intent to cause or knowing that it is likely to cause anguish to a family member*

The Court will grant a Personal Protection Order (PPO) if you are able to prove that family violence has been committed or is likely to be committed against you or your children, and a PPO is necessary for protection.

Application Process

If either your spouse, former spouse, children, parents, in-laws or siblings have caused you or your minor children to experience family violence, you should apply for a PPO.

PPO applications may be filed in-person at the Family Justice Courts, online through the iFAMS portal or by video-link at a Family Violence Specialist Centre.

Victims of family violence frequently experience emotional trauma that can affect their everyday life. If you or your children have experienced family violence, we strongly encourage you to seek counselling at a Family Service Centre or a Family Violence Specialist Centre.



Procedure in Court

As part of the PPO proceedings, you will be required to attend counselling sessions with the Respondent to negotiate a peaceful resolution of your family violence matter.

If you are unable to resolve your dispute amicably, there will be at least 2 mentions hearings held in open Court so that the Court can deal with the administrative matters relating to your PPO proceedings. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you will need to attend Court personally.

At the trial of your PPO application, you will need to present evidence in support of your claim of family violence. Both you and the Respondent will be given the opportunity to cross-examine each other on the evidence presented to the Court, before the Court makes a decision whether to grant or dismiss your PPO application.

Family Violence

Expedited Orders (EO) & Domestic Exclusion Orders (DEO)

Once the Court has accepted your PPO complaint, the Court will grant an EO that will be effective until the next Court hearing in your PPO proceedings.

In your PPO application, you may also request for the Court to grant a DEO, so that the Respondent will be restrained from entering your entire home or certain rooms in your home.



Breach of EO, DEO or PPO

If the Court grants an EO, DEO or PPO in your favour, the Order will continue until rescinded or suspended by the Court.

Breach of an EO, DEO or PPO is a criminal offence, punishable by fine or imprisonment. If you are placed in fear of a breach by the Respondent, please call the police.

Consultation

We would love to help you explore your options.

Before your consultation with our lawyers, these are the documents that you should prepare:

- Your NRIC
- Your PPO Complaint
- Your police report(s) made against the Respondent
- Contemporaneous medical report(s) and photographs of your injuries
- Audio or video recordings of the incidents of family violence
- Names and contact details of any witnesses to the incidents of family violence

**Family
Violence
Specialist
Centres**

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Ang Mo Kio Ave 3
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TRANS
SAFE Centre
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