



You can get an Order of Protection during the current COVID-19 crisis.

- **Order of Protection cases are still being heard by the Courts.**
Order of Protection cases are emergencies and will still be heard during the COVID-19 crisis.
- **You can still file a Petition for an Order of Protection at the Courthouse.**
For instructions on how to complete and file the standard petition forms approved by the Illinois Supreme Court, visit: www.illinoislegalaid.org or www.illinoiscourts.gov or call your local domestic violence shelter.

In Winnebago County, you also have the option of filing a Petition for an Order of Protection online using the following process:

1. Fill out a Petition online at www.illinoisprotectionorder.org. List all incidents of abuse even if not recent and submit (e-file) your Petition. After you submit the Petition, you will receive a receipt number.
2. Call the Circuit Clerk with your receipt number: (815) 319-4500. The clerk will give you a time for the judge to call you to have an emergency hearing on the phone.
3. The judge will decide on the phone whether to grant you an emergency Order of Protection and the judge will also give you a date for second hearing. You **MUST** appear in person at the courthouse for the **SECOND** hearing so the Judge can hear evidence from both parties and decide whether to grant an Order of Protection for up to 2 years.

Prairie State provides free legal representation to victims of domestic violence.
To apply for services from Prairie State, call **(815) 965-2902** or visit www.pslegal.org.

You may also contact the Domestic Violence Assistance Center at **(815) 516-2440** or Remedies at **(815) 962-6102** (24 hr. hotline).