

# Protection Against Family Violence Act

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New Ways to Help Victims of Family Violence.



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## Introduction

- Emergency protection orders – a new choice
- Before EPO's
- With EPO's

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## Topics of Discussion



- What are emergency protection orders?
  - ◆ Who can get one?
  - ◆ What can they do?
  - ◆ How long can they last?
  - ◆ How do you apply?
  - ◆ How can we make them work in our community?

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## Who Can Get One?

Three criteria must be met:

1. Applicant under the act;
2. Family violence has occurred and.
3. The matter is urgent or serious.



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## Who Can Get One?

An applicant is:

- Person who lives(or has lived) in a intimate or family relationship with the violent family member or together with that person has had a child.
- Spouse, ex spouse, common law, child, aunt, uncle, grandparent etc.



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## Who Can Get One?

Family violence means:

- Hurting or damaging a family member or property;
- Causing a family member to fear for their safety,
- Causing a family member to fear for the safety of a child in their care,

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## Who Can Get One?

Family violence means:

- Causing a child of the family to fear for their safety.
- Sexual abuse.
- Forcible confinement.
- Psychological, emotional, or financial abuse which cause harm or fear of harm.

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## Who Can Get One?

There needs to be an  
emergency!

eg: what would happen if there is no  
immediate intervention?

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## What Can They Do?

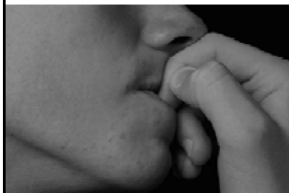
- Direct the police to remove the violent family member of the home temporarily.
- Direct the police to seize and store firearms.
- Direct police to accompany family members to their home and supervise the removal of personal belongings.

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## What Can They Do?

- Prohibit the violent family member from contacting or communicating with other family members.
- Converting or damaging property which the applicant has an interest.
- Let the applicant stay in the home without the violent family member being there.



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## How Long Do They Last?

- How much time is needed to address emergency?
- Maximum 90 days.



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## How Do You Apply?



1. Call local RCMP or 1-866-223-7775.
2. Give consent.
3. Provide info to designate.
4. Designate calls on-call JP.

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## How Do You Apply?



5. JP hears application and makes determination.
6. If granted, police serve violent family member and provide copy to applicant.
7. Community provides larger support and safety to victim and family.
8. Police enforce orders.



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## Real Life

- They're not for everyone.
- They don't solve the broader problem of family violence.
- They do give breathing room in a crisis or emergency.
- They do give both people time and space to think safely about long term solutions.



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## Another Option

- It provides immediate help in a crisis situation.
- Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

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## Protection Against Family Violence Act

- Having this law sends a strong message that as a community we believe children and their non-violent parent have the right to be safe in their own home.



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## Next Steps

- How can our community incorporate this legislation to support families?



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