

## **HOW TO OBTAIN AN INJUNCTION**

The Domestic Violence Department in the Clerk of Court's Office will help you complete the paperwork necessary to ask the Court for an INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC, REPEAT, DATING, STALKING OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE (Restraining Order). If you are a victim of domestic, repeat, dating, stalking or sexual violence and you are in genuine fear, this Department will assist you in filing the papers to petition the Court for an Injunction for Protection against your abuser.

**Location:** CLERK OF COURT- Domestic Violence Department

### **BROWARD COUNTY CENTRAL COURTHOUSE**

Domestic Violence Department and Pro Se Unit

201 S.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, West Wing, Room 02140

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone Number: 954-831-5570, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (filings stop at 5:00 p.m.)

### **BROWARD COUNTY WEST REGIONAL COURTHOUSE**

100 N. Pine Island Road – Room 180

Plantation, FL 33324

Phone Number: 954-831-5612

Hours of Operation: Opens at 8:00 a.m. Filings stop at 2:00 p.m. All filings after 2:00 p.m. must be filed at the Broward County Central Courthouse located at 201 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 or through the eFiling Portal.

Please see [www.browardclerk.org](http://www.browardclerk.org) for more information.

**If a Domestic Violence incident occurs after the listed hours please contact 954-761-1133 for after hour procedures to apply for an Injunction.**

TRY NOT TO BRING CHILDREN! This process may take 3-7 hours.

\*\*\*If you park in the Courthouse garage at the main courthouse, you can ask the Domestic Violence Clerk to validate your parking while you are filling out the Petition. Otherwise, bring money for parking.

**If you have one, bring a government issued identification card (such as a driver's license).**

If you are a victim of domestic, stalking, repeat, dating, or sexual violence and you are truly in fear, this is how to get a restraining order against the abuser:

1. Tell the Domestic Violence Clerk that you want to obtain an Injunction.
2. Complete all documents asking for an injunction. Go to the Domestic Violence Clerk and file your papers asking for the Injunction.
3. You will be told about the Injunction process including the Emergency Service Packet, how the papers are served on the other side, about the possible orders the Judge may enter temporarily, and about the Final Hearing.
4. You may speak with a caseworker to confidentially discuss your safety needs, and obtain referrals for counseling, to shelters, or to other community agencies.

5. You will then wait for the Judge's ruling. You will either receive a Temporary Injunction, an Order Setting Hearing or a denial of your request from the Judge.

\*\*\*If you intend to have an Attorney represent you at the Final Hearing on the Temporary Injunction, get a copy of the Petition for Injunction that you filed, so that the Attorney can review your pleadings.\*\*

6. You must appear at any follow up hearing date that is indicated in the Temporary Injunction or the Injunction will likely be dismissed.

**To apply for representation at Coast to Coast Legal Aid, please bring all of your legal documents, identification (if you have one), and any evidence with you.**