

FAMILY LAW UNIT

491 N. State Road 7, Plantation, Florida 33317

954-736-2400

www.coasttocoastlegalaid.org

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc. may be able to provide you with FREE, EXPERIENCED LEGAL REPRESENTATION at your return hearing for a Final Injunction.

HOW TO FILE A PETITION FOR AN INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION

The Domestic Violence Intake Unit 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, the Clerk will assist you in filing the papers to petition the Court for an Injunction for Protection against your abuser. If you would like legal advice before filing, you may contact our office.

Location: CLERK OF COURT- Domestic Violence Intake Unit

BROWARD COUNTY CENTRAL COURTHOUSE

Domestic Violence Intake and Pro Se Unit

201 S.E. 6th Street, West Wing, Room 02-140

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 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 or through the e-Filing Portal.

<https://www.browardclerk.org/Divisions/DomesticViolence#GeneralInformation>

If a Domestic Violence incident occurs and you need to file after the listed hours, please contact 954-761-1133 for after-hours, holiday, hurricane, or emergency procedures to file a Petition for an Injunction for Protection.

TRY NOT TO BRING CHILDREN! This process may take several hours.

If you park in the Central Courthouse garage in the jury parking garage located east of the Courthouse at 540 SE 3rd Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, obtain a parking ticket and bring it with you for the Clerk to validate while you are filling out the Petition. Otherwise, bring money for parking.

If you have government issued identification card (such as a driver's license), be sure to bring it with you.

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. They will have you choose a Petition based on your relationship to the opposing party and what happened. The forms are available on the Clerk of Court site at the link above.

2. Complete all documents. The Domestic Violence Clerk will assist you to file your papers asking for an Injunction. Make sure you tell the Clerk if your address, phone number, or any information is confidential.

3. You will be told about the Injunction process including the Emergency Service Packet, how the papers are served on the opposing party, about the possible orders the Judge may enter temporarily, and about the Final Hearing.

4. You may speak with a case manager to confidentially discuss your safety needs, and obtain referrals for counseling, to shelters, or to other community agencies.

5. You will then wait for, or come back to pick up, the Judge's ruling. You will receive either 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 for a Final Judgment of Injunction, make sure you get a copy of the Petition for Injunction that you filed, so the Attorney may review your pleadings.**

6. You must appear at any follow up hearing date set on the Temporary Injunction or the Injunction will likely be dismissed if you are not there.

To apply for representation with our office, please call us at 954-736-2400.

If you cannot contact us by phone, you may email us your application (download from our website), legal documents, identification (if you have one), and any evidence you have or bring it with you to our office to apply.