

# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

## HELP FOR PEOPLE FILING A PROTECTION ORDER

If you are a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment and believe you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.  
For help locating emergency services in your area, call 2-1-1.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT HELP

**Sexual Assault & Harassment Statewide 27/7 Hotline**  
1-800-871-7741  
[mecasa.org](http://mecasa.org)

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

**Domestic Violence Statewide 27/7 Hotline**  
1-800-834-HELP  
[mcedv.org](http://mcedv.org)

### More Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Help

#### Tribal Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence 27/7 Hotline Numbers

*Wabanaki Women's Coalition*

Micmac Advocacy Center • (207) 551-3639 Maliseet Advocacy Center • (207) 532-6401

Indian Township Passamaquoddy Advocacy Center • (207) 214-1917

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center • 1-877-853-2613

Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center • (207) 631-4886

### How can an advocate help me?

**An advocate is a trained person who can help a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment to:**

- Give you information about protection orders and help you understand what happens in court;
- Help you file court paperwork and find legal help;
- Go with you to your hearing and give you support and information;
- Help you with other services like housing, counseling, support groups, and mental health help;
- Help make sure you are safe; and
- Provide information on how to file for a protection order if you are under 18.

### LEGAL HELP

#### Maine State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

1-800-860-1460 or [www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest](http://www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest)  
(30-minute consultation with a lawyer for \$25 administrative fee)

#### Legal Services for the Elderly

1-800-750-5353 or [www.mainelse.org](http://www.mainelse.org)

### MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the court process to get a protection order, please review [A Guide to Protection from Abuse and Harassment Cases](#) or scan the QR code on the right.



To learn more about how to file for a protection order **by email**, please visit the [Maine Judicial Branch website](#) or scan the QR code on the right.



MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

Location (Town): \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ individually **and** on behalf of:

☐ on behalf of:

V.

Defendant

☐ on behalf of:

**CERTIFICATION FOR ELECTRONIC FILING OF COMPLAINT OR MOTION TO EXTEND PROTECTION ORDER**

PMO-SJC-3; M.R.E.C.S. 31-40

**PLEASE NOTE:** This form is required only for complaints for a protection order or a motion to extend a protection order that are filed electronically (either by email or through eFileMaine). If you want to file in person at a courthouse, you do not need to complete this form.

**If you wish to speak to an advocate, you can call the free and confidential statewide hotline for the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence at 1-866-834-4357 or the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault at 1-800-871-7741.**

1. To file a complaint or motion to extend in a protection order case electronically, **you must check that you understand the following:**

- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** I **must** have access to a safe phone number and a safe email that I can check regularly to file electronically. This is because the clerk will contact me by email to (1) tell me if the court granted me a temporary order for protection, or (2) if needed, to schedule a time for me to call the court so the judge can ask for additional information.
- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** if the court schedules me for a call with the judge (the defendant will **not** be on the call) and I do not call at that time, my case will not be dismissed but **my request for a temporary order may be denied.**
- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** that filing by email does **not** mean I am automatically protected. A judge must review my filing and decide whether to grant a temporary order or temporarily extend my existing protection order.

**ADA Notice:** The Maine Judicial Branch complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation, contact the Court Access Coordinator, [accessibility@courts.maine.gov](mailto:accessibility@courts.maine.gov), or a court clerk.

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** that any filings received electronically on a weekend, legal holiday, during a court closure, or after 3:00 p.m. on a weekday will not be reviewed until the next business day.
- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** that I may file electronically without oath and notarization only if I check the box on the court's complaint or motion to extend form that says:
- "I swear under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct. I understand that these statements are made for use as evidence in court and that I am subject to prosecution for perjury punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.00 if I give false information to the court."
- ☐ **I UNDERSTAND** that all documents filed by email must be in Word or PDF format. All documents filed by eFileMaine must be in PDF format, and each form/document must be submitted individually as separate files within the same filing or "envelope". Photographs of documents and hyperlinks to documents will **not** be opened or reviewed by the court.

**If you cannot agree to all the above, you should go to the court to file in person.** Please visit the following website for a list of courts by city or town:

[https://www.courts.maine.gov/maine\\_courts/findacourt/court\\_by\\_town.shtml](https://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/findacourt/court_by_town.shtml)

### 2. Safe Email to Schedule Call with Judge

To file electronically, you **must** provide a safe email for the court to contact you in case the judge has questions and needs to schedule a call with you. **Not all cases will need a call with the judge.** If you do not have a safe email, you should go to the court to file in person.

**Safe email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Safe phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you would like the clerk to also call you with your scheduled time. Please note that the clerk may be calling from a number that displays the caller ID (not a blocked number) and will not leave a voicemail if you do not pick up.

### 3. Court Selection

I want to file this matter in (*court location/town name*) \_\_\_\_\_ District Court.

Visit the following website for a list of courts by city or town:

[https://www.courts.maine.gov/maine\\_courts/findacourt/court\\_by\\_town.shtml](https://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/findacourt/court_by_town.shtml)

### 4. Method of Electronic Filing (*please select one option below*)

- a. ☐ I want to file **by email** (this option is available for all courts, but **only for complaints and motions to extend without a filing fee**).

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**MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Please email your filing to the regional email address for the court where you want to file:

- Region 1 (Biddeford District Court): [region1pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region1pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 2 (Bridgton and Portland District Courts): [region2pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region2pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 3 (Farmington, Lewiston, Rumford, and South Paris District Courts):  
[region3pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region3pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 4 (Augusta, Skowhegan, and Waterville District Courts):  
[region4pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region4pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 5 (Bangor, Dover-Foxcroft, Lincoln, Millinocket, and Newport District Courts):  
[region5pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region5pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 6 (Belfast, Rockland, West Bath, and Wiscasset District Courts):  
[region6pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region6pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 7 (Calais, Ellsworth, and Machias District Courts):  
[region7pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region7pafilings@courts.maine.gov)
- Region 8 (Caribou, Fort Kent, Houlton, Madawaska, and Presque Isle District Courts):  
[region8pafilings@courts.maine.gov](mailto:region8pafilings@courts.maine.gov)

b. ☐ I want to file using **eFileMaine** (this option is available for all complaints and motions to extend, but **only in the following District Courts: Bangor, Lewiston, South Paris, Farmington, and Rumford**).

To file using eFileMaine, please visit: <https://www.courts.maine.gov/ecourts/efile.html>

## 5. Completing the Forms

After you have completed this form, complete the other forms in the protection from abuse packet, protection from harassment packet, or the motion to extend protection order packet as instructed. You must then electronically file the completed packet, including this form, whether you are submitting the filing by email to the regional email address or through eFileMaine.

**FILING CERTIFICATION.** I hereby certify that there are good grounds to support this pleading and that it is not being filed to cause any delay.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

► /s/  
Name of filing party or filing party's attorney  
(Typing your name above will be accepted by the  
court as an electronic signature.)

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# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

Location (Town): \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ individually **and** on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_

V.

Defendant

☐ on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPLAINT FOR PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT

5 M.R.S. §§ 4651 et seq.

**NOTE: You must file form PA-027 if you are filing this electronically. Failure to do so will result in rejection of the Complaint.**

### 1. Plaintiff information:

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**Do NOT list your contact information below if it is to be kept confidential. Instead, complete form PA-015, Affidavit for Confidential Address, which can be obtained from the clerk or at [www.courts.maine.gov](http://www.courts.maine.gov).**

Present street address (street address, city, state, ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

If different, mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. If you are filing this complaint on behalf of a minor child or children, provide the following information:

Minor's Name

Minor's Date of Birth  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Minor's Gender (select one)

_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other

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**B. If you are filing this complaint acting as a representative on behalf of another adult, provide the following information:**

Adult's Name

Adult's Date of Birth  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Adult's Gender (select one)

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

**C. If you are filing this complaint on behalf of a business, provide the following information:**

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present street address (street address, city, state, ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

If different, mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff's relationship to the business: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Defendant information:**

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) (If unknown, enter an approximate age): \_\_\_\_\_

Race: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Indian ☐ Unknown

Present street address (street address, city, state, ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

If different, mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. If you are filing this complaint against a defendant on behalf of a minor, provide the following information:**

Minor's Name

Minor's Date of Birth  
(mm/dd/yyyy) (If  
unknown, enter an  
approximate age):

Minor's Gender (select one)

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

**3. Defendant's military service:**

Information regarding the defendant's military service (select one of the following):

☐ The defendant is currently in military service, and I know this because: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The defendant is not currently in military service, and I know this because: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am unable to determine whether or not the defendant is currently in military service.

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### 4. Other court cases involving custody of the minor child(ren):

You must choose either (a) or (b):

☐ (a) Plaintiff does **not** know of any cases in Maine or any other state concerning the custody of the child(ren) named in this complaint; or

☐ (b) Plaintiff knows about the following case(s) in Maine or any other state concerning the custody of the child(ren) named in this complaint (*select all that apply*):

☐ Divorce or family matter

☐ Protection from abuse or restraining order

☐ Guardianship of minor ☐ Name change of minor ☐ Adoption of minor

You **must** select the court in which the case was filed: ☐ Probate Court ☐ District Court

☐ Protective custody

☐ Juvenile matter

☐ Other (*describe what kind of other case*): \_\_\_\_\_

If there are any court orders awarding custody, visitation, etc. for the child(ren) or any court orders against the defendant or any actions pending against either the plaintiff or the defendant, give details:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Notice by law enforcement:

You must choose either (a) or (b):

☐ (a) A copy of the notice(s) issued by law enforcement pursuant to 17-A M.R.S. § 506-A to defendant to stop harassing the plaintiff (or the person on whose behalf I am filing this complaint) is attached to this complaint.

☐ (b) I have not sought/obtained from law enforcement a notice to defendant to stop harassing me (or the person on whose behalf the complaint is being filed) because the harassment meets the definition in 5 M.R.S. § 4651(2)(C), or relates to an allegation of:

☐ domestic violence;

☐ violence against a dating partner;

☐ sexual assault;

☐ stalking; or

☐ harassment as described in 17-A M.R.S. §§ 506(1)(A-1) or (A-2).

### 6. Allegation of domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, or unlawful dissemination of private images:

You must choose either (a) or (b), and then detail provide additional information about this claim in number 7 below:

☐ (a) This claim **involves** an allegation of domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking or unlawful dissemination of certain private images;

☐ (b) This claim **does not involve** an allegation of domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking or unlawful dissemination of certain private images.

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- 7. Explain in detail why you are asking for protection from the defendant – who, what, when, where, etc. (If additional space is needed, attach another page).**

[illegible]

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

### ☐ MOTION FOR TEMPORARY ORDER (*OPTIONAL*)

☐ I am and/or ☐ the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of, is/are in immediate and present danger of physical abuse or extreme emotional distress from the defendant's conduct, or my business property is in immediate and present danger of suffering substantial damage as a result of the defendant's actions because:

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I therefore request that a temporary order for protection from harassment be issued.

### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF** (*you must select one or more of the options below*)

#### **I ASK THE COURT TO:**

- ☐ (a) Order the defendant to stop harassing ☐ me ☐ and/or the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of.
- ☐ (b) Order the defendant to have no direct or indirect contact with ☐ me ☐ and/or the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of.
- ☐ (c) Order the defendant not to enter ☐ my residence ☐ and/or the residence of the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of.
- ☐ (d) Order the defendant to refrain from repeatedly, and without reasonable cause, following me, or the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of, or being at, or in the vicinity of, my/their home, school, business, or place of employment.
- ☐ (e) Order the defendant to refrain from interfering with my property and/or the property of the person(s) I am filing this complaint on behalf of.
- ☐ (f) Order the defendant to remove, destroy or return the private images or direct the removal, destruction or return of the same, order the defendant to stop disseminating the private images, and further order the defendant not to disseminate the private images at any time in the future.
- ☐ (g) Order the defendant to pay monetary compensation for losses that I have incurred as the result of the harassment.
- ☐ (h) Order the defendant to pay my attorney fees and court costs and to order any other necessary and proper relief.
- ☐ (i) Order the defendant to refrain from destroying, transferring, or tampering with my passport or any other immigration documents.

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

You are hereby put on notice that it is a crime to make a false statement under oath in a court document:

☐ I swear under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct. I understand that these statements are made for use as evidence in court and that I am subject to prosecution for perjury punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.00 if I give false information to the court.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff

**PLEASE NOTE: If you are not filing this complaint electronically, you must have a clerk or notary sign below.** If you are filing this complaint electronically, you may file it without notarization as long as you checked off the above certification and signed this document.

### STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

Personally appeared the above named, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
made oath that the foregoing statements are true under penalty of perjury.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Clerk ☐ Notary Public ☐ Attorney

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# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

## PROTECTION ORDER SERVICE INFORMATION

### DEFENDANT

Defendant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment number and/or floor: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of house or other description: \_\_\_\_\_

If living with another person, other person's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home/work/cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours defendant will most likely be at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Schedule: ☐ Mon ☐ Tues ☐ Wed ☐ Thurs ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Hours Worked: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ AM ☐ PM to \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ AM ☐ PM

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (If known)

Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐ Other

### VEHICLE (If known)

Make and Year (yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Type/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. and State: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to provide the above information, please list below the name, address, and telephone number of anyone who can help the serving officer locate the defendant:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Does the defendant own a firearm or other weapon? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If the defendant owns a firearm or other weapon, answer the following questions:

Describe the weapon(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Where is/are the weapon(s) usually kept? Include the address where the weapon(s) are usually kept and describe the location of the weapon(s) (i.e., under the bed), if known: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does the defendant have a history of violence? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else the serving officer should know about the defendant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PLAINTIFF

Plaintiff's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (unless confidential): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home/work/cell (unless confidential): \_\_\_\_\_

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

Location (Town): \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ individually **and** on behalf of:

☐ on behalf of:

V.

Defendant

☐ on behalf of:

### AFFIDAVIT OF CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS

19-A M.R.S. § 4112(1), 5 M.R.S. § 4656

**PLEASE NOTE:** When your contact information is confidential, the court cannot give your information to an advocate from a domestic violence or sexual assault community agency to call you. An advocate can help you find legal help, explain what happens in court, and go with you to court. If you want help from an advocate, call one of the numbers on the second page of this form.

I am the ☐ plaintiff ☐ defendant in this case and I request that the court keep the following information confidential:

☐ Physical address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number:

☐ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Home \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Work \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other ( \_\_\_\_\_ ): \_\_\_\_\_

I state under oath that the health, safety, or liberty of myself and/or my child(ren) would be jeopardized by disclosure of this information for the following reasons:

☐ I swear under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct. I understand that these statements are made for use as evidence in court and that I am subject to prosecution for perjury punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000 if I give false information to the court.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of ☐ plaintiff ☐ defendant

### STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

Personally appeared the above-named, and made oath that the foregoing statements are true under penalty of perjury.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Attorney at Law ☐ Notary Public ☐ Clerk

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Help For People Filing Protection Orders	
If you are a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment and believe you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. For help locating emergency services in your area, call 2-1-1.	
Sexual Assault/Harassment Help	Domestic Violence Help
<b>Sexual Assault &amp; Harassment Statewide 24/7 Hotline</b> 1-800-871-7741 <a href="http://mecasa.org">mecasa.org</a>	<b>Domestic Violence Statewide 24/7 Hotline</b> 1-866-834-HELP <a href="http://mcedv.org">mcedv.org</a>
More Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Help	
<b>Tribal Sexual Assault &amp; Domestic Violence 24/7 Hotline Numbers</b> <i>Wabanaki Women's Coalition</i> Micmac Advocacy Center • (207) 551-3639 Maliseet Advocacy Center • (207) 532-6401 Indian Township Passamaquoddy Advocacy Center • (207) 214-1917 Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center • 1-877-853-2613 Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center • (207) 631-4886  <b>Immigrant &amp; Refugee Sexual Assault &amp; Domestic Violence Help</b> Immigrant Resource Center of Maine • (207) 753-0061	
How can an advocate help me?	
<b>An advocate is a trained person who can:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give you information about protection orders and help you understand what happens in court;</li><li>• Help you file court paperwork and find legal help;</li><li>• Go with you to your hearing and give you support and information;</li><li>• Help you with other services like housing, counseling, support groups, and mental health help;</li><li>• Help make sure you are safe; and</li><li>• Provide information on how to file for a protection order if you are under 18.</li></ul>	
Legal Help	
<b>Maine State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service 1-800-860-1460</b> <a href="http://www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest">www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest</a> (\$25 administrative fee to help individuals find a private lawyer; includes a 30-minute consultation.)  <b>Legal Services for the Elderly</b> 1-800-750-5353 <a href="http://www.mainelse.org">www.mainelse.org</a>	

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# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

## PROTECTION FROM ABUSE OR PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT: WHAT KIND OF CASE SHOULD I FILE?

Protection from Abuse (PFA)	Protection from Harassment (PFH)
<p>Regardless of your age, you can file a PFA <b>against your family or household member or your current or former dating partner</b> who has abused you. <i>(Please note that if you are a minor child, your parent or other person responsible for you will have to file the PFA on your behalf.)</i></p>	<p>Regardless of age, you can file a PFH <b>against anyone</b> if you have been a victim of that person's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harassment (which means three or more acts of intimidation, confrontation, actual or threatened physical force by the defendant, made with the intention of causing fear, intimidation, or damage to personal property, and that do in fact cause fear, intimidation, or damage to personal property);</li> <li>A single act or course of conduct constituting a serious criminal act, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assault,</li> <li>criminal threatening,</li> <li>sexual assault,</li> <li>terrorizing,</li> <li>kidnapping,</li> <li>aggravated assault,</li> <li>arson,</li> <li>violation of privacy, or</li> </ul> </li> <li>Violation or interference with your constitutional or civil rights.</li> </ul>
<p>Regardless of your age, you can also file a PFA <u>against anyone</u> who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stalked you;</li> <li>sexually assaulted you;</li> <li>used or threatened to use intimate private images of you or against you;</li> <li>has forced you or led you into sex trafficking; or</li> <li>knowingly removed or tampered with a condom, knowingly used a damaged condom, or misrepresented intentions to use a condom during a consensual sexual act.</li> </ul>	
<p>If you are 60 or older, or a dependent or incapacitated adult, you can file a PFA <u>against a family member or unpaid care provider</u> if that person has abused you.</p>	<p><i>(Please note that if you are a minor child, your parent or other person responsible for you will have to file the PFH on your behalf.)</i></p>
<p>If you are a minor, your parent or other person responsible for you can get a PFA on your behalf <u>against anyone</u> who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sexually exploited you;</li> <li>shared or intends to share sexually explicit images of you (only if you are 16 or under); or</li> <li>harassed you by telephone or by electronic devices.</li> </ul>	

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KEY DIFFERENCES: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE v. PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT

Protection from Abuse (PFA)	Protection from Harassment (PFH)
A temporary protection order may be available without earlier notice to the defendant. If a temporary order is <u>not</u> granted, the plaintiff can decide to withdraw the complaint or go ahead, with a final hearing to be heard within 21 days.	In most cases, the plaintiff must first ask law enforcement to serve a “cease harassment” notice on the person harassing the plaintiff before filing a PFH complaint.
There are no fees to file a PFA complaint or have law enforcement serve the complaint and temporary order (if any) on the defendant.	There may be fees to file a PFH complaint and have law enforcement serve the complaint and temporary order (if any) on the defendant. There are no fees for complaints that are based on allegations of domestic or dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or unlawful dissemination of certain private images.
A business cannot file a PFA complaint.	A business can file a PFH complaint.
The court will hold a hearing on a PFA complaint within 21 days after the complaint is filed.	The court will hold hearing on the PFH complaint at the earliest available date, but it might not be held within 21 days.
An initial final PFA order can last up to two years.	An initial final PFH order can last up to one year.
A temporary or final PFA order can prohibit the defendant from having firearms, ammunition, or other dangerous weapons.	The court generally does not prohibit the defendant from having firearms, ammunition, or other dangerous weapons.

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## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

### RESOURCES

HELP FOR PEOPLE FILING A PROTECTION ORDER	
<p>If you are a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment and believe you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.</p> <p>For help locating emergency services in your area, call 2-1-1.</p>	
SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT HELP	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP
<p><b>Sexual Assault &amp; Harassment Statewide 24/7 Hotline</b> 1-800-871-7741 mecasa.org</p>	<p><b>Domestic Violence Statewide 24/7 Hotline</b> 1-866-834-HELP mcedv.org</p>
More Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Help	
<p><b>Tribal Sexual Assault &amp; Domestic Violence 24/7 Hotline Numbers</b> <i>Wabanaki Women's Coalition</i></p> <p>Micmac Advocacy Center • (207) 551-3639   Maliseet Advocacy Center • (207) 532-6401 Indian Township Passamaquoddy Advocacy Center • (207) 214-1917 Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center • 1-877-853-2613 Penobscot Nation Advocacy Center • (207) 631-4886</p>	
How can an advocate help me?	
<p><b>An advocate is a trained person who can help a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give you information about protection orders and help you understand what happens in court;</li><li>• Help you file court paperwork and find legal help;</li><li>• Go with you to your hearing and give you support and information;</li><li>• Help you with other services like housing, counseling, support groups, and mental health help;</li><li>• Help make sure you are safe; and</li><li>• Provide information on how to file for a protection order if you are under 18.</li></ul>	
LEGAL HELP	
<p><b>Maine State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service</b> 1-800-860-1460 or <a href="http://www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest">www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest</a> (30-minute consultation with a lawyer for \$25 administrative fee)</p>	<p><b>Legal Services for the Elderly</b> 1-800-750-5353 or <a href="http://www.mainelse.org">www.mainelse.org</a></p>

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