

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

Domestic Violence Statewide 27/7 Hotline
1-800-834-HELP
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
(30-minute consultation with a lawyer for \$25 administrative fee)

Legal Services for the Elderly
1-800-750-5353 or 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 a complaint for a protection order or a motion to extend a protection order that is filed electronically (either by email or through Maine eCourts). 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.
- I UNDERSTAND that any filings received electronically on a weekend, legal holiday, during a court closure, or any filing received by email 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

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MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

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

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.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are filing an Affidavit for Confidential Address (PA-015) as part of your complaint, do not include your email or phone number information below. The clerk will obtain that information from PA-015.

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

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

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

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
- Region 2 (Bridgton and Portland District Courts): region2pafilings@courts.maine.gov
- Region 3 (Farmington, Lewiston, Rumford, and South Paris District Courts): region3pafilings@courts.maine.gov
- Region 4 (Augusta, Skowhegan, and Waterville District Courts): region4pafilings@courts.maine.gov
- Region 5 (Bangor, Dover-Foxcroft, Lincoln, Millinocket, and Newport District Courts): region5pafilings@courts.maine.gov
- Region 6 (Belfast, Rockland, West Bath, and Wiscasset District Courts): region6pafilings@courts.maine.gov

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Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

Location (Town): _____

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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.

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and file form PA-005 with your complaint. If you are filing this complaint electronically, you must also complete and file form PA-027. 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.

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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MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

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

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MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

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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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:

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) or approximate age: _____

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? _____

Is the defendant on probation? No I do not know Yes; name of Probation officer (if known): _____

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
Sexual Assault & Harassment Statewide 24/7 Hotline 1-800-871-7741 mecasa.org	Domestic Violence Statewide 24/7 Hotline 1-866-834-HELP mcedv.org
More Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Help	
Tribal Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence 24/7 Hotline Numbers <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 Immigrant & Refugee Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Help Immigrant Resource Center of Maine • (207) 753-0061	
How can an advocate help me?	
An advocate is a trained person who can: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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 www.mainebar.org/page/AttorneyRequest (\$25 administrative fee to help individuals find a private lawyer; includes a 30-minute consultation.) Legal Services for the Elderly 1-800-750-5353 www.mainelse.org	

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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 against your family or household member or your current or former dating partner who has abused you.</p>	<p>Regardless of age, you can file a PFH against anyone if the other person has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassed you (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); • Committed a single act or course of conduct constituting a serious criminal act against you, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ assault, ○ criminal threatening, ○ sexual assault, ○ terrorizing, ○ kidnapping, ○ aggravated assault, ○ arson, ○ violation of privacy; • Violation or interference with your constitutional or civil rights; or • Shared or threatened to share intimate private images of you. <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>Regardless of your age, you can also file a PFA <u>against anyone</u> who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stalked you; • sexually assaulted you; • shared or threatened to share intimate private images of you or against you; • has forced you or led you into sex trafficking; or • knowingly removed or tampered with a condom, knowingly used a damaged condom, or misrepresented intentions to use a condom during a consensual sexual act. 	
<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>If you are a minor, you can also get a PFA <u>against anyone</u> who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexually exploited you; • shared or intends to share sexually explicit images of you (only if you are 16 or under); or • harassed you by telephone or by electronic devices. 	

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KEY DIFFERENCES: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE v. PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT

Protection from Abuse (PFA)	Protection from Harassment (PFH)
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 minor can file a PFA on their own behalf.	A minor <u>cannot</u> file a PFH on their own behalf.
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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RESOURCES

HELP FOR PEOPLE FILING A PROTECTION ORDER	
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How can an advocate help me?	
An advocate is a trained person who can help a victim of violence, abuse, or harassment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	
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