

Pueblo Protection Order Clinic (PPOC)

The Pueblo Protection Order Clinic operates in collaboration with Colorado Legal Services (CLS) and the Pueblo County Pro Bono Project and in cooperation with the 10th JD and ACOVA. The goal is to increase access for low-income individuals to have free legal assistance and to be represented by an attorney for the return/contested hearings.

Will I be charged to be represented by the clinic?

No, all services are without fees.

How can I get a temporary protection order?

Anyone can petition for court-ordered protection in Colorado, but the judge will only grant a Civil Protection Order if he or she perceives the threat of domestic violence, assault, stalking, or abuse. You can also petition for a CPO on behalf of your children.

I would like to have an attorney represent me at my next hearing. What is my next step?

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What is AVOVA?

- **ACOVA is A Community Organization for Victim Assistance**
- ACOVA advocates are highly trained to confidentially assist anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship
- ACOVA is located at 920 North Main Street (in the same parking lot as the new Pueblo City and County Health Department.)

Step 1: You will go to the ACOVA office and let the advocate know that Colorado Legal Services sent you because you need assistance in filing for a temporary protection order

- ACOVA advocates will assist clients in completing the documents to file for a Temporary Protection Order (Please remember that ACOVA advocates are not attorneys and cannot give you legal advice)

- ACOVA advocates will go with you to file with the Court
- ACOVA advocates will go with you to your court hearing
- ACOVA advocates have a special stamp they will use on all your documents. The stamp will let the Judge and the clerks know that you wish to be scheduled on a Wednesday afternoon into the Protection Order Clinic.
- ACOVA advocates will provide you with the application that Colorado Legal Services needs to screen you for clinic representation.
 - If you are accepted by Colorado Legal Services you will be represented by an attorney at you next hearing.

What is the Temporary Protection Order Hearing?

Step 2: At the temporary protection order (TPO) hearing you will be directed to the appropriate courtroom for a temporary protection order hearing. During this hearing, you will be asked to explain why you are seeking a protection order. Questions might include the following information: relationship with the restrained party, instances of abuse, violence, threats, etc., information regarding the restrained party's criminal history, and whether or not you perceive the restrained party to be an imminent threat. If you have listed children on the affidavit regarding children, the judge will want you to prove that the restrained party is an imminent threat to your children as well.

Step 3: If the Judge **grants** a TPO, he or she will assign a permanent protection order hearing in approximately two weeks. *** If you would like to be represented at the next hearing this is when you will use the reminders (included in this packet) to ask the Judge to schedule your hearing on a Wednesday afternoon.

Step 4: ACOVA will assist you in completing personal service. After the temporary protection order is granted, you must wait in the courtroom for copies of the order. Make sure the court clerk gives you enough copies for yourself, other protected parties, addresses listed on the order, and the restrained party. Next, you and an ACOVA advocate will take a copy of the TPO to the Pueblo Sheriff Department who will serve the defendant with the paperwork. If an ACOVA advocate is not available to go with you to the Sheriff's Department they will tell you where to go. *** Please make sure you complete the information for the sheriff that has been included with this packet. The information sheet includes all the information required for both the PPOC and you to be notified when service is complete. If you are requesting a civil standby (that means you want an officer to go with you to your home or remove the restrained party from your home you will need to go with the advocate to the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff will tell you what you need to do next.

Step 5: ACOVA will email your temporary protection order and your application to Colorado Legal Services as soon as you drop off the documents at the Sheriff's office.

- Colorado Legal Services will screen your application
- If your application is accepted you will be represented by an attorneys at your next hearing and you will receive specific instructions regarding your case

What if CLS has a conflict or my case is not appropriate for PPOC clinic staffing?

- CLS will immediately tell you that the Protection Order Clinic cannot represent you
- You will need to either hire an attorney or proceed pro se (this means on your own)

Step 6: Safety Planning

- If you are accepted by the Protection Order Clinic safety planning is required
- A trained advocate will work with you to develop a personalized safety plan tailored to your particular circumstances.

Other benefits that may be provided by the Pueblo Protection Order Clinic:

- Each client will receive information on The Colorado Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) and the protections it provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual offenses or stalking/harassment with a means to prevent abusers and potential abusers from locating the victim by access to public records.
- Clients will be referred to other support agencies as needed
- Will provide information on your rights as an employee, a debtor, and a tenant who has been a victim of domestic violence or stalking, and will provide a sample letter to send to a landlord if you need to leave their residence because of domestic violence.