

Injunction for Protection Against Violence (IFP) Program

Filing Locations:

George Edgecomb Courthouse

800 East Twiggs Street, Room 205

Tampa, Florida 33602

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

or

Plant City Courthouse

301 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1071

Plant City, Florida 33563

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Website: www.hover.hillsclerk.com

Phone: 813-276-8100

You must be 18 years or older in order to file a Petition for Injunction. State issued identification is required. If you are under the age of eighteen and you have never been married or had the disabilities of nonage removed by a court, then one of your parents, custodians, or your legal guardian must sign this petition with you. You are filing a civil action, which will remain confidential until the respondent is served with the temporary injunction or order setting hearing. Once you have filed your completed petition with the clerk it may not be changed or withdrawn.

Step 1: How Do I Complete a Petition?

Write only on the front of the forms in your packet using black ink. The allegations in the petition for injunction must be sworn to by the Petitioner and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. No filing fee is required.

The person filing the Petition is referred to as the PETITIONER. The person whom the Petition is being filed against is referred to as the RESPONDENT.

In order for the court to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to grant a Temporary Injunction, your petition must include specific facts and circumstances, including dates, which meet the statutory elements to support the entry of an injunction for protection. The Clerk's Office will forward your petition to a judge for their review and they will determine whether your petition meets the statutory criteria in order to issue a Temporary Injunction.

The Respondent will be served with a copy of your petition and the Temporary Order. If you are filing a Petition for Injunction Against Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence or Stalking Violence, you may file a Confidential Address Affidavit. If you use a Confidential Address Affidavit, do not write your address anywhere within your packet.

Step 2: How Do I Find Out the Judge's Decision?

You can use one of the following methods to find out the judge's ruling:

1. Sign up for the Clerk's Texting Service which provides immediate text notifications (ask Clerk for assistance). By opting in to receive text messages, you are authorizing the Clerk's Office to send electronic messages to you. Message and data rates may apply. Once registered, you will receive an email or text to activate your account or Texting Service.
2. Sign up for Hillsborough Online Viewing of Electronic Court Records (HOVER) on-line court document access (ask Clerk for assistance). Visit www.hover.hillsclerk.com to access . Select "Case Search" located in the upper left corner of the website page and then enter your case number in the search box.
3. Call our office (813-276-8100), Say "Restraining Order" and our 24/7 system will prompt you for your case number.

If a Temporary Injunction is granted, a full evidentiary hearing will be held within 15 days from the date your Petition was filed. Your hearing date and time cannot be changed. You must attend this hearing or your petition may be dismissed by the court.

You must return to the Clerk's Office to pick up two certified copies of the Temporary Injunction and Petition. These copies must be kept with you at all times. If the Respondent approaches you at any time, immediately contact law enforcement and they can serve the Respondent with your copies. If you've signed up for the Texting Service, electronically certified copies of the Temporary Injunction will be sent to you along with additional orders issued in your case.

Step 3: How Do I Find Out if my Temporary Injunction has been served?

The Clerk will furnish copies to the Sheriff of the county where the Respondent resides or can be located in the State of Florida. The Sheriff will serve the Respondent as soon as possible during their regular working

hours. Allow adequate time for service as it may take several business days to complete. If the Respondent resides outside of the state, you should request an Out-of-State Packet when you pick up your copies. You are responsible for providing the service packet to the appropriate law enforcement agency. You can check the status of the service at www.hover.hillsclerk.com. If you have signed up for our Texting Service, an electronically certified copy of the Return of Service document will be sent to you once filed in the case.

Step 4: What if my Temporary Injunction has not been served by the court date?

If the Sheriff’s Office is unable to serve the Respondent prior to the hearing date, you must still attend the hearing to avoid dismissal of your petition. A new court date will be scheduled and your Temporary Injunction will be extended.

Step 5: What happens during the hearing?

You are required to appear at the hearing to give sworn testimony and present your case regarding the allegations in your petition. The Respondent will have an opportunity to testify regarding their recollection of the alleged incident(s). At this hearing, the court will determine whether to grant or deny your request for a Permanent Injunction for Protection.

If you are granted a Permanent Injunction for Protection, you will be provided a copy of the order at the hearing. You should keep this copy with you at all times. Based on the severity of any violation of the court order, you should first consider contacting law enforcement for assistance. You may return to the Injunction Program of the Clerk’s Office to file an Affidavit of Violation of Injunction regardless if the Respondent has been arrested for the violation. .

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge and understand it is my responsibility to call the Clerk's Office or check my case online at www.hover.hillsclerk.com no sooner than 2 hours from the time of filing but within 24 hours to obtain the status of my case unless I have enrolled in the Clerk’s Texting Service. I also understand I must attend all scheduled court hearings.

The Clerk has provided me information regarding the availability of the Clerk’s Texting Service as well as HOVER on-line access.

In order to receive information on the judge’s ruling on my petition, I’ve elected to (initial all that apply):
_____ Enroll In Clerk’s Texting Service; _____ Sign-Up for Access to Clerk’s HOVER Program;
_____ Will Call 813-276-8100.

Petitioner’s Signature: _____ Case Number: _____-DR-_____

Initials of Clerk Assisting: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NO COST LEGAL ASSISTANCE/REPRESENTATION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To apply, call Bay Area Legal Services at 813-232-1343

Ask for an appointment with the Domestic Violence Attorney; mention the date and time if you have an upcoming hearing.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

Spring of Tampa Bay

813-247-7233

Available 24/7/365

FREE – IFP Legal Advice/Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence

The Spring's Injunction for Protection Project attorneys are available by calling or texting (813) 495-3523

An attorney will respond within 24 hours.

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

Telephone: 813-272-5400

VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

419 N. Pierce Street, Room 311, 3rd Floor

Telephone: 813-272-6472

ELDER JUSTICE CENTER:

Edgecomb Courthouse

Room 481, 4th Floor

Telephone: 813-276-2726

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In Case of Emergency – 911

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office – 813-247-8200

Plant City Police Department – 813-757-9200

Tampa Police Department – 813-231-6130

Temple Terrace Police Department – 813-989-7111