

## What Is A DVO/IPO

Your DVO/IPO (Domestic Violence Order/Interpersonal Protection Order) Is the Judge's decision in your case. During your court hearing, the judge ordered your abuser not to do certain things. These are all written down on your paper, (DVO/IPO).

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT  
THAT YOU KEEP THIS PAPER WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!**

### What Did The Judge Order?

*Look at Your Order. The Judge will have checked off certain boxes.*

*Only Those Checked Apply to your Case.*

- **"No Contact or Communication"**- This means your abuser may not speak to you in person, on social media, or by phone.
- **"Must Remain a Certain Distance From You"**- In most cases, your abuser should not be in your yard, your home, where you work, or where you go to school. If you are in a store, restaurant, or other public place, your abuser must not speak to you.
- **"No Further Acts of Violence"**- This includes Physical Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking or Harassment.
- **"Not to Dispose or Damage Property"**- Your abuser cannot take, use, sell, or destroy any of your property.

Anything that was bought during your marriage, even if only one person paid for it, may be considered marital property. Neither you nor your spouse can sell or give these items away.

- **"The abuser must vacate the residence"**- Your abuser must move out of your home.
- **"Temporary Child Custody and Child Support"**- The Judge may order visitation for your abuser. If there is a divorce, the final word on child custody will belong to the Circuit Judge.
- **"Counseling for your abuser"**- The Judge may order Anger management, Domestic Violence, or Substance Abuse Counseling.
- **"Anything else the Judge feels is necessary for your protection"**

### What Do I Do If My Abuser Breaks the Order?

*If your abuser disobeys anything in the Judge's Order, they can go to jail. You should report them at once. You have the following options.*

1. You can go back to the Circuit Clerk's Office and tell them, "My abuser broke the order". They will help you write down just how your abuser broke the order. Within two weeks, you and your abuser will have a hearing before the Judge. If the Judge believes your abuser has disobeyed the Order, he/she can put them in jail up to six months.
2. You may go to the County Attorney and tell them. "My abuser broke the Order" The County Attorney will ask the judge to order your abuser to be arrested. Your abuser can post bail to get out of jail. A trial date will be set which could be several months away. At the hearing, a jury or the judge will decide if your abuser broke the Order. If found guilty, they can be sent to jail for up to 12 months.

If your abuser committed another crime while he was disobeying the Order, he can be punished for both. For example: if they broke into your home and stole your property, there could be a burglary charge. If they hit you, they could be charged with assault.

## DOVES of Gateway

**1-800-221-4361**

**Emergency Shelter**

**Food**

**Clothing**

**Legal Advocacy**

**Child Advocacy**

**Referrals**

**Counseling**

**Housing**



### WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER?

1. Your Name
2. Your Abusers Name
3. When the Order begins and when it ends
4. What your abuser must not do
5. Anything the judge may order your abuser to do

### What Happens to My Order if I Move?

Your DVO/IPO is good anywhere in the United States. All police and courts will honor it. If you move, you should go to the Clerk's Office in that county to find out how to register your Order in that state.

### How can you change something in your DVO/IPO?

- You must go to the Clerk's Office and tell them you want to change something in your DVO/IPO. They will help you write down the change you want.

For example, you and your abuser may want to try to "work things out" by talking. You can ask that "No communication/contact" be dropped from the order.

- You will have another court hearing where you will explain what changes you would like made to the order to the Judge. If he/she believes you will be safe, the Judge may decide to change part of the order. The rest of the order is still good.

If you don't ask the Judge to change the order and you go ahead and have contact with your abuser, they are legally breaking the DVO/IPO and could go to jail because of it.