



# WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE FILING A RESTRAINING ORDER

## Are you in imminent danger?

- If you currently fear for your safety, please call 911. Law enforcement on the scene can request an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) from the court to protect you when there is an emergency with domestic violence or if someone is harming or threatening to hurt you. It lasts up to 5-7 days.
- Even if the police are not called to the incident, you may also contact local law enforcement to request an EPO if you feel that you are in imminent danger.

## Filing a restraining order involves:

- serving the restrained party with a copy of all required forms. This means that your court case will be a public record.
- attending a court hearing where the restrained party may be present.
- many different steps. Please see the "Which Restraining Order is Suitable for My Case" flyer if you are unsure or contact the ACCESS Center if you have further questions.

## There may be filing fees and other related costs

- You may need to pay filing fees and other related costs to file a restraining order.
- There is **no fee** to file for:
  - a domestic violence restraining order
  - an elder abuse restraining order
  - a civil harassment restraining order *against restrained parties that have inflicted or threatened violence or stalked you.*
- You may qualify for a fee waiver if you currently receive public benefits, your household income, before taxes, is less than the amounts listed on item 5b of the Request to Waive Court Fees form FW-001, or the court finds that you do not have enough income to pay for your household's basic needs and the associated court fees.