

Harassment Restraining Order

What is this?

- ◆ Legally prohibits someone from threatening to harm you **OR** from repeatedly committing acts which harass or intimidate you and which serve no legitimate purpose
 - This includes persistent acts, such as unwelcome phone calls, coming on to your property, following you, or appearing at your work site for no legitimate reason.

Who to contact?

- ◆ If the above criteria pertains to you, a legal advocate from Golden House can help you file.

How much does it cost?

- ◆ Brown County Clerk of Courts charges a fee to file.
- ◆ There is also a fee to serve the papers to the person harassing you.
- ◆ Both fees can be waived if you have a low income.



Our Mission

The mission of Golden House is to provide a dignified sanctuary, supportive intervention, and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence within Brown County and the surrounding region. As a nonprofit agency, Golden House strives to eliminate domestic violence from our community by:

- * Working cooperatively with other agencies and community resources.
- * Providing shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups, information, and referral services.
- * Educating our community regarding the prevalence, effects, and prevention of domestic violence.

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Domestic Abuse Restraining Order

Who can file?

- ◆ An adult who is **related to, lives with, has lived with,** or has a **child in common** with someone who **physically abuses** you.
 - Examples of abuse: slapping, pushing, striking, and/or sexual abuse.
- ◆ An adult who is related to, lives with, has lived with, or has a child in common with someone who **threatens** you with physical harm.

What does it do?

- ◆ Legally prohibits the abusive party from having any contact with you. They cannot come to your **home, workplace,** or any place **temporarily** occupied by you, contact you by **phone, mail,** or through a **third party.**



How long does it last?

- ◆ A domestic abuse restraining order can be granted for up to four years.

What does the process cost?

- ◆ No cost to you!

Is a “No Contact Provision” the same as a Domestic Abuse Restraining Order?

- ◆ NO
- ◆ A “No Contact Provision” is in effect until the final hearing or until the victim goes to court and asks the judge to lift it.

What is the procedure?

- ◆ It is a two-step process that a legal advocate from Golden House can assist you with all or part of it.

Step 1: Obtaining the temporary restraining order

- ◆ Obtain a form from Golden House, Clerk of Courts Office in Brown County, or any courthouse.
- ◆ Complete the forms describing the abuse or threats of abuse.
- ◆ Take the completed forms to the courthouse to be read and signed by a court commissioner.
- ◆ The Sheriff’s department will deliver a copy of the temporary restraining order (with your description) and the notice of hearing to the person who is abusing you.
- ◆ You are also given a copy of the forms.

Step 2: Injunction

- ◆ Within **14 days after** filing a temporary restraining order, you will need to attend a hearing at the courthouse.
- ◆ A legal advocate from Golden House can assist you if you wish.
- ◆ You may need to describe the abuse or threats of abuse that you experienced in the hearing.
- ◆ The abuser may also be at the injunction hearing.