



Renew your Protection Order

Part 1. Forms

Forms in this packet

- PO 050: “Motion for Renewal of Protection Order”
- PO 054: “Order Setting Hearing on Renewal and Extending Order until Hearing”
- PO 004: “Proof of Service”
- PO 056: “Order Renewing Protection Order”
- PO 003: “Law Enforcement and Confidential Information” (LECIF)

Tips for filling out the forms

- Print your forms single-sided.
- Type your forms, if possible.
- If you are filling out your forms by hand your responses must be:
 - Printed.
 - Readable.
 - In black or dark blue ink.
 - Written only on the front side of the paper.
- Re-read each form after you have filled it out.
- Make sure that:
 - You have correctly filled in all necessary blanks.
 - Any corrections you make are neat and readable.
 - You have signed or initialed where needed.
- Always keep copies of your completed forms for your records.

Part 2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Should I use this packet?

You should use this packet if you have a protection order that is about to end, and you want to ask a judge to extend it so that it protects you and/or your children for longer.

How easy or hard is it to renew a protection order?

It is easiest if you don't want to make any changes to your protection order and the other party doesn't respond or show up at a court hearing to fight the renewal. However, even if the other party does try to fight the renewal, they must prove that there's been a real change in circumstances and that they won't abuse or harm you in the future. This can be hard for them to do.

Will I have to pay to ask to renew my protection order?

No, you don't have to pay a filing fee. But there may be copying fees and fees for service (delivering the papers to the person you have the order against).

How long can I get the protection order renewed for?

The judge can renew a protection order for at least a year. The judge can also make a protection order permanent.

What should I put in the motion form?

You should let the judge know facts such as how long it has been since you got the protection order, if the other party has violated the protection order or has harmed or abused anyone not protected by the order, if the other party has been convicted of any crime since you got the order, and if the other party has a continuing problem with alcohol or drug abuse. This is not a complete list. You can read more things to tell the judge at the state law: [RCW 7.105.405\(5\)](#).

Could the judge say no?

Maybe. The judge could turn down your request to renew a protection order if the other party proves that there's been a real change in circumstances, and they won't abuse or harm you in the future.

Under state law, the judge *cannot* use any of these reasons to refuse to renew a protection order:

- The other party has not violated the protection order.
- Either you or the other party is under age 18, or both of you are.
- You did not report to law enforcement the conduct that led you to get the protection order, or any violations of the protection order.
- You also have a no-contact order or a restraining order against the other party in a criminal or family law case.
- You could get a court order in a different case that would give you what a protection order renewal would give you.
- It has been some time since the last incident that led you to get the protection order.
- The other party no longer lives near you.

If a judge refuses to renew a protection order for any of those reasons, talk to a lawyer right away.

A judge who won't renew your protection order must put their reasons in a written Denial Order. You can try to fight the Denial Order. You have 10 days from the date of the decision to do this.

To learn more, read [PO 090 Post-Hearing Information: After your protection order hearing, what happens next?](#), available at www.courts.wa.gov/forms, and talk with a lawyer right away. See contact info below.

My protection order kept the other parent away from our children. If I can't renew it, can I ask for a therapist to help with restarting contact with the children?

Maybe. At the renewal hearing, if the judge refuses to renew your order, the judge should still decide if the other parent and the children should do reunification therapy. Any such therapy provider should be made aware of the other parent's history of domestic violence and should have training and experience in the dynamics of intimate partner violence.

If you want reunification therapy, ask the judge to put in the Denial Order that it should happen and why. You may still have to get or change a Parenting Plan to require it.

Where can I learn more?

There is more information on WashingtonLawHelp.org under the "personal safety" topic.

Where can I get legal help?

- For Washington Forms Online interviews and legal information, go to [WashingtonLawHelp.org](https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)
- **If you live in King County**, call 2-1-1 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. They will refer you to a legal aid provider.
- **If you have a low income and do not live in King County**, call the CLEAR Legal Hotline at 1-888-201-1014.

Part 3. How to File and Serve Your Forms

Step 1. Get your forms ready to file

- Check your forms carefully. Make sure they are accurate.
- Follow the instructions on each form about signing and making copies.
- Make 2 copies of every form you filled out so you have one set of originals (for the clerk) and 2 sets of copies (one for you and one for your spouse), **except** you don't need to make copies of or serve the LECIF.

Step 2. Bring your originals and copies to the county Superior Court Clerk's Office

- Tell the clerk you want to file a to renew your protection order.
- Ask the court clerk if they have special rules or forms.
- Give the clerk your set of originals.
- Ask the clerk to stamp your copies with the date you filed the originals.
- Ask the clerk to stamp your case number on your copies OR put the case number on each of your copies yourself.
- Take the stamped copies back from the clerk. The clerk keeps the originals.

Step 3. Serve your papers

There are multiple ways to serve these court forms on the other party: They agree to accept the papers from you (Service Accepted), someone hand delivers the papers to them (Personal Service), you have the papers sent by email or social media (Electronic Service), or you have them mailed after getting court permission to do so (Service by Mail).

Personal service is best, and you can ask law enforcement to do it for you. You can only do service by mail if you have a court order allowing it.

Step 4. File your Proof of Service

- Gather your original proof of service.
- Make one copy of the original.
- Take the originals and the copies to the court clerk's office where you filed for the protection order.
- Give the original to the clerk.
- Ask the clerk to stamp the date you filed the original on your copies.
- Keep the copies in a safe place.

This publication provides general information concerning your rights and responsibilities. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.

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