

INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IFP) PROGRAM

You must be 18 years or older in order to file a Petition for Injunction. Please bring state issued identification with you. If you are under the age of 18, you must have a parent or legal guardian accompany you and file the petition on your behalf. If you are filing on behalf of a minor child or against a minor child, please let the Clerk know. Minor children will have to attend the hearing. You can only file a petition at the Tampa and Plant City locations.

You are filing a civil action which is a public record. Once you have filed your completed petition with the Clerk, it may not be changed or altered.

How do I complete a petition?

Please write only on the front of the forms in your packet using black ink. 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 which 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 convince the Court that an immediate and present danger of violence exists.

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

How do I find out the judge's decision?

The Clerk's Office will forward your petition to a judge who will review the petition and determine whether your petition meets the statutory criteria in order to issue a Temporary Injunction. You must contact the Clerk's Office to find out if the judge has granted your temporary injunction either by phone or by visiting our website. If a Temporary Injunction is granted, the Court will schedule a hearing within 15 days from the date your Petition was filed. Your hearing date and time cannot be changed.

The Clerk will provide you with two (2) certified copies of the Temporary Injunction and Petition. You should return to the Clerk's Office to pick up your copies. Please refer to this brochure for our office locations. These copies should be kept with you at all times. If the Respondent approaches you at any time, you should immediately contact law enforcement and they can serve the Respondent with your copies.

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. If the Respondent resides outside of the state, you should request an Out-of-State Service Packet when you pick up your copies. The Sheriff will serve the Respondent as soon as possible during their regular working hours. You may access HOVER (<https://hover.hillsclerk.com>) to search court records and review your case status as to service. Please allow adequate time for service as it may take several business days to complete.



George Edgecomb Courthouse
800 East Twiggs Street, Room 205
Tampa FL 33602
Telephone: (813) 276-8100 (when prompted, say "restraining order," then provide case number)

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday thru Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 7AM to 10AM

Plant City Courthouse
301 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1071
Plant City FL 33563
Telephone: (813) 276-8100 (when prompted, say "restraining order," then provide case number)

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday thru Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Pickup certified copies of Temporary Orders only

Brandon Regional Service Center
311 Pauls Drive, Suite 110
Brandon FL 33511

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday thru Friday, 8AM to 4PM

Southshore Regional Service Center
410 30th Street S. E., Suite 126
Ruskin FL 33570

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday thru Friday, 8AM to 4PM

Website: <https://hover.hillsclerk.com>

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 then be scheduled and your Temporary Injunction will be extended.

What happens during the hearing?

You are required to appear at the hearing to give sworn testimony 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 of whether the Respondent has been arrested for the violation.

How do I obtain the judge's ruling?

You must call our office (813.276.8100) 24/7 to obtain the judge's ruling on your case. It typically takes a few hours for your case to be processed and reviewed by the judge. Our automated system will look up the case status when you call in after providing the assigned case number (located on the front of your brochure). If the ruling is not yet available, you'll need to continue to call back and check. During business hours, you'll have the option to speak with a clerk.

Let the clerk know if you are interested in registering for HOVER which will give you access 24/7/365 to view your case on-line.

Once registered, you will receive an email to activate your account (User Name and Password required).

You will use the case number located on the front of the brochure to search your case.

Visit www.hillsclerk.com to navigate through Hillsborough Online Viewing of Electronic Records (HOVER) system.

Select "Case Search" located on the upper left corner of the page and enter your case number in the search box.

You may also call our office for information related to the status of your case.

- If filing BEFORE 3PM, call out office between 4:30PM and 5PM the same day to receive the judge's ruling as to the petition.
- If filing AFTER 3PM, call our office the following business day after 8AM to receive the judge's ruling.
- If filing on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the Clerk's representative will advise you when to contact our office.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Free Legal Advice/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, If you have an upcoming hearing, state the date and time.

Local Domestic Violence Shelter
The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.
Telephone: (813) 247-7233

Office of the State Attorney
Telephone: (813) 272-5400
Victim's Assistance Program
419 North Pierce Street, 3rd Floor,
Room 311
Tampa FL 33602
Telephone: (813) 272 6472

Elder Justice Center
George Edgecomb Courthouse
800 East Twiggs Street, 4th Floor,
Room 481
Tampa FL 33602
Telephone: (813) 276-2726

Law Enforcement Agencies
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY 911
Hillsborough County Sheriff's
(813) 247-8200
Plant City Police (813) 757-9200
Tampa Police (813) 231-6130
Temple Terrace Police (813) 989-7111