

FORM 10.01-N: HOW TO COMPLETE A MOTION FOR CONTEMPT FOR VIOLATING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER

ENFORCING YOUR CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER

Violating a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order (“CPO”) is a crime. If the Order is violated, call the police or prosecutor. You may also bring a contempt action in the Court that issued your CPO if the other party is not obeying the Order. You may hire an attorney to assist you. You must file a contempt motion with the Clerk of Court to begin a contempt action.

SOME HINTS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- All forms must be typed or printed.
- When you write your name on the Motion for Contempt of a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order, use the same name that is on your CPO.
- Fill out the Motion as completely and accurately as possible.

FORM YOU WILL NEED

You can get the Motion from the Clerk of Court. Complete the Motion as explained below:

- Fill in the name of the Court, the case number and the judge’s last name.
- If you obtained the CPO, you are the Petitioner.** Fill in your name and address. If you want your address to be confidential, do not write your address anywhere on the Motion. However, you must include someone’s mailing address to allow the Court to send you legal notices about your case.
- If the Court issued the CPO against you, you are the Respondent.** Fill in your name and address.
- Fill in the other party’s name and address.
- Complete the first paragraph.
- In the numbered paragraphs, check every box that applies. There is space at the end of the Motion for any facts or explanations that you want to tell the Court. Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Signing the Motion:** Try to fill out the Motion before you go to the courthouse. **AFTER YOU HAVE FILLED OUT THE MOTION, TAKE IT TO A NOTARY PUBLIC TO HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE NOTARIZED. DO NOT SIGN THE MOTION UNLESS YOU ARE IN FRONT OF A NOTARY PUBLIC. An employee of the Clerk of Court may be available to notarize your Motion.**
- Complete the Instructions for Service at the end of the Motion. This tells the Clerk of Court how you want the Motion delivered.

FILING THE MOTION FOR CONTEMPT OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CPO

- Present your completed Motion to the filing window/counter of the Clerk of Court’s office for filing.
- A Clerk of Court’s office employee helps you file the Motion.
- The Court shall not charge a fee for filing a contempt motion to you if the CPO was issued for your protection.
- Ask a Clerk of Court’s office employee or your local domestic violence assistance provider about your local court procedures.

VICTIM ADVOCATE

State law permits you to have a victim advocate with you at all times in Court during protection order proceedings. Victim advocate means a person who provides support and assistance for a victim of an offense during Court proceedings. Contact your local victim assistance program, local domestic violence program, or the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, 800-934-9840, for advocate information.

ATTENDING THE CONTEMPT HEARING

At the hearing, you should tell the judge or magistrate what the other party did to fail to obey the CPO. If you have any physical evidence (photographs, documents, broken property, etc), bring it to this hearing. If you have any witnesses to the violations, bring them to this hearing. If you want the Court to order any witness to appear at the hearing, you can ask the Clerk of Court to issue a subpoena. This needs to be done as far in advance of the hearing as possible.

The Court will give each party the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses.

After all the evidence is presented at the contempt hearing, the Court may find that the Respondent or Petitioner has failed to comply with the CPO. If so, the Court may order the offending party to do or stop certain acts to comply with the terms of the CPO. The Court can also order the offending party to serve time in jail, pay a fine, or both.