

How Can I Respond to a Request for Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Orders?

What is an elder or dependent adult abuse restraining order?

It is a court order that prohibits you from doing certain things and going certain places.

What does the order do?

The court can order you to:

- Not contact the person who is protected by the order
- Stay away from that person and the person's home and workplace
- Move out of the place where you and that person are living together
- Not have any guns as long as the order is in effect

Who can ask for a restraining order?

A person who is being:

- Financially abused
- Abandoned or abducted
- Harmed
- Neglected
- Isolated
- Deprived by a caregiver of goods or services necessary to live on

A conservator may seek an order on behalf of an elder or dependent adult.

I've been served with a request for elder or dependent adult abuse restraining orders. What do I do now?

Read the papers served on you very carefully. The *Notice of Court Hearing* tells you when to appear in court. There may also be a *Temporary Restraining Order* forbidding you from doing certain things. You must obey the order until the hearing.

What if I don't obey the order?

The police can arrest you. You can go to jail and pay a fine.

What if I don't agree with what the order says?

You still must obey the order until the hearing. If you disagree with the orders the person is asking for, fill out Form EA-120, *Response to Request for Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Orders*, before your hearing date and file it with the court. If you need to include attachments, you can use Form MC-025. You can get the forms from legal publishers or on the Internet at www.courts.ca.gov. You also may be able to find them at your local courthouse or county law library.

Do I have to serve the other person with a copy of my response?

Yes. Have someone age 18 or older—**not you**—mail a copy of completed Form EA-120 to the person who asked for the order (or that person's lawyer). (This is called "service by mail.")

The person who serves the form by mail must fill out Form EA-250, *Proof of Service of Response by Mail*. Have the person who did the mailing sign the original. Take the completed form back to the court clerk or bring it with you to the hearing.

Should I go to the court hearing?

Yes. You should go to court on the date listed on Form EA-109, *Notice of Court Hearing*. If you do not go to the hearing, the judge can make orders against you without hearing from you.

EA-109

Notice of Court Hearing

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

① **Elder or Dependent Adult in Need of Protection**

a. Full Name: _____

Person requesting protection for the elder or dependent adult, if different (person named in item ③ of Form EA-100):

Full Name: _____

Lawyer for person named above (if any for this case):

Name: _____ State Bar No.: _____

b. Firm Name: _____

Address for person named above (if you have a lawyer, give your lawyer's information. If you do not have a lawyer, give information for the person requesting the order. If you want to keep your home address private, you may give a different mailing address instead. You do not have to give telephone, fax, and e-mail.):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Fill in court name and street address:
 Superior Court of California, County of _____
 Court fills in case number when form is filed.
 Case Number: _____

② **Person You Want Protection From**

Full Name: _____ Age: _____

The court will complete the rest of this form.

③ **Notice of Hearing**

A court hearing is scheduled on the request for restraining orders against the person in ②:

Hearing Date

Date: _____ Time: _____

Dept.: _____ Room: _____

Name and address of court if different from above: _____

④ **Temporary Restraining Orders** (Any orders granted are on Form EA-110, served with this notice.)

a. Temporary Restraining Orders for personal conduct and stay away orders as requested in Form EA-100, *Request for Orders to Stop Harassment*, are (check only one box below):

(1) All GRANTED until the court hearing.

(2) All DENIED until the court hearing. (Specify reasons for denial in b, below.)

(3) Partly GRANTED and partly DENIED until the court hearing. (Specify reasons for denial in b, below.)

This is a Court Order

Judicial Council of California, www.courts.ca.gov
New January 1, 2012, Mandatory Form
Welfare & Institutions Code, § 15657.03
Approved by DCO

Notice of Court Hearing
(Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention)

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How long does the order last?

If the court issued a temporary restraining order before the hearing, it will last until your hearing date. At that time, the court will decide to continue or cancel the order. Any order issued at the hearing can last for up to five years.

Do I need a lawyer?

Having a lawyer is always a good idea, but it is not required, and you are not entitled to a free court-appointed attorney. Ask the court clerk about free and low-cost legal services and self-help centers in your county.

Will I see the person who asked for the order at the court hearing?

Yes. Assume that the person who is asking for the order will attend the hearing. Do not talk to him or her unless the judge or that person's attorney says that you can.

Can I bring a witness to the court hearing?

Yes. You can bring witnesses or documents that support your case to the hearing. But if possible, you should also bring the witnesses' written statements of what they saw or heard. Their statements must be made under penalty of perjury. You can use Form MC-030 for this.

For help in your area, contact:

[Local information may be inserted.]

What if I don't speak English?

When you file your papers, ask the clerk if a court interpreter is available. You may have to pay a fee for the interpreter. If an interpreter is not available for your court date, bring someone to interpret for you. You should ask someone age 18 or older to interpret for you.

What if I have a gun?

If a restraining order is issued, unless the order is to prevent financial abuse only, you cannot own, possess, or have a gun, other firearm, or ammunition while the order is in effect. If you have a gun or other firearm in your immediate possession or control, you must sell it to a licensed gun dealer or turn it in to a law enforcement agency.

Can I agree with the protected person to cancel the order?

No. Once the order is issued, only the judge can change or cancel it. You or the protected person would have to file a request with the court to cancel the order.

What if I am deaf or hard of hearing?

Assistive listening systems, computer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available if you ask at least five court days before the hearing. Contact the clerk's office or go to www.courts.ca.gov/forms for *Request for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities and Response* (Form MC-410). (Civ. Code, § 54.8.)