



**VIDEO 3**

**Getting Legal Assistance and Accommodations**



## Get Protection From Abuse

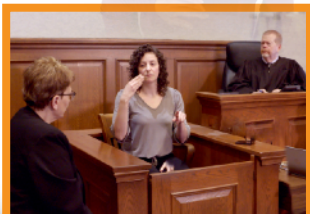
While it's always best to consult a lawyer, this 7-part video series from Legal Aid of Western Ohio will help you navigate the legal system and take you step-by-step through the process of getting a civil protection order to protect yourself and those you care about.

### Getting assistance when using the legal system

Going through the legal process can be overwhelming. The good news is there is assistance that can help you get your Civil Protection Order (CPO) and that will help you overcome any barriers that may get in your way.

### What assistance is available?

The Domestic Relations Court in your county (where you file a CPO) allows you to file for a "continuance" (more time) if you need it. You can also make arrangements through the court to get other assistance. These may include special arrangements for mobility issues, if English is not your primary language, or if you are vision impaired, deaf or hard of hearing.



### Can someone accompany me in court?

You have the right to be accompanied by an advocate in the courtroom. An advocate cannot speak on your behalf in court, but can provide a comforting presence. An advocate can help you develop a safety plan, which can be very important while pursuing a legal case.





## You have the right to receive assistance.

When filling out the forms, be sure to ask the court for **exact orders**: financial support; temporary description of your request (in writing to the court) is usually all you need. The court may not grant your request, but if you don't ask, you will never know. You will be issued another court date for a **full** hearing about a week later.



**Everyone has the right to live free from domestic violence. For more information on protecting yourself and your family, contact:**



## Your local domestic violence agency.

To find your agency, contact Ohio Domestic Violence Network at

[www.odvn.org/find-help](http://www.odvn.org/find-help)



## Your local Legal Aid.

To find the Legal Aid for your county, contact [www.ohiolegalhelp.org/find-your-legal-aid](http://www.ohiolegalhelp.org/find-your-legal-aid)



Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. is a non-profit law firm serving civil legal needs of northwest and west central Ohio's low income individuals, families and seniors. This information is not legal advice. It is general information. It is not a substitute for talking to a lawyer about your situation. You may still need help from a lawyer. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.