

# LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

You assume certain legal obligations when you apply for a Personal Protection Order. Meeting these obligations is essential for the success of your order, and for your and/or your children's safety. The following is a list of YOUR OBLIGATIONS as the Petitioner:

- **AVOID contact with the respondent.**  
If your PPO is issued, YOU MUST COMPLY with the order by not contacting the respondent. The JUDGE issued your PPO. Therefore, the order (although not expressly stated) *prohibits YOU from allowing or giving permission to the respondent* to engage in behaviors that the Judge has ordered not to occur. If you need to have the order changed or ended, you must file the motion requesting the Judge to do so. The PPO office can assist you in filing the appropriate motion. If you violate your own PPO, or encourage the respondent to violate the PPO, YOU may be held in contempt.
- **SERVE the respondent.**  
YOU CANNOT SERVE THE RESPONDENT YOURSELF. A process server or someone you can trust, like a friend or a relative, must complete service. Service must be completed by one of the following (unless specifically ordered by the Judge):
  1. Personal Service (hand the respondent the paperwork); or
  2. Certified Mail (return receipt requested, delivery restricted); or
  3. Registered Mail (return receipt requested, delivery restricted)

**NOTE:** The respondent will receive a letter from the Michigan State Police stating that s/he cannot get a license to purchase a pistol and a license to carry a weapon concealed. This will be sent out after service to the respondent.

- **FILE the Proof of Service form with the Circuit Court.**  
Whoever serves the PPO must file a Proof of Service with the Circuit Court Clerk. The respondent then can be held in "contempt" for a PPO violation.
- **Carry a Certified Copy of the PPO with you at all times.**  
If you call the police, but the respondent has not been served, the police can use YOUR COPY to serve the respondent at the scene.
- **BE TRUTHFUL** in all statements to the court.  
An individual who knowingly and intentionally makes a false statement to the court in support of his or her own petition is subject to contempt sanctions. An individual who alters the Judge's order is also subject to contempt sanctions.
- **Complete a Motion to Show Cause**  
If the respondent violates the order, but is not arrested, YOU must request the violation hearing. Contact the PPO office for forms and assistance.
- **Inform the PPO office**  
If you have any problems, questions, or need for assistance with your PPO, you may contact the PPO office at (989) 790-5412.

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Acknowledged  
by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Honorable Patrick J. McGraw  
10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court – Family Division