

## Definitions:

### **Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO):**

RCW 26.50.010 – “Domestic Violence” means (a) physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault between family or household members; (b) sexual assault of one family or household member by another; or (c) stalking as defined in RCW 9A.46.110.

### **Anti-Harassment Order (AHO)**

RCW 10.14.020(1) “Unlawful Harassment” means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person which seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is detrimental to such person, and which serves no legitimate or lawful purpose. The course of conduct shall be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and shall actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner, or, when the course of conduct would cause a reasonable parent to fear for the well-being of a child.

## Resources

### Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

- Pierce County Superior Court Clerk’s Office  
930 Tacoma Ave S., Room 110  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 798-5752 or (253) 798-0422

### **REMOTE LOCATIONS**

- Crystal Judson Family Justice Center  
718 Court E.  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 798-4310
- YWCA of Pierce County  
405 Broadway  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 365-6352
- Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County  
102 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 200  
Tacoma, WA 98421  
(253) 474-7273 or 1-800-756-7273

### **Anti-Harassment Orders (AHOs)**

- Pierce County District Court  
930 Tacoma Ave S., Room 239  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 798-7487

### **Petitions for Unlawful Harassment between minors are filed and heard at Pierce County Juvenile Court (Remann Hall).**

5501 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98406  
(253) 798-7900

# Pierce County Superior Court and District Court

## **Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Anti- Harassment Orders (AHOs)**

### **What type of Order do I need?**



## Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

**Petitioner (you): Must establish a relationship listed below in order to qualify for a DVPO.**

### Definition of Family of Household Members:

"Family or household members" means spouses, domestic partners, former spouses, former domestic partners, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time, adult persons related by blood or marriage, adult persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, persons sixteen years of age or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past and who have or have had a dating relationship, persons sixteen years of age or older with whom a person sixteen years of age or older has or has had a dating relationship, and persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren.

**Entry of a DVPO** will prohibit the Respondent from having any contact with the Petitioner. The order will be specific on the areas the Respondent must stay away from and the distance he/she must remain from the Petitioner. The Commissioner will add any additional individualized instructions to the order.

## DVPOs (continued)

**Duration of the DVPO:** The order is valid for at least one year, but is discretionary and can be extended for a fixed term or permanent based on the Commissioner's ruling.

- **Violation of a DVPO is a criminal offense.**
- **Any assault that is a violation is a Class C felony.**
- **This is the court's order. The petitioner cannot modify the order.**

**DVPOs are issued through Pierce County Superior Court.**

### Firearms:

Court shall require surrender to law enforcement or other person if clear, cogent, and convincing evidence shows use, display, or threat with firearm or other deadly weapon.

Court may require surrender if the above is shown by a preponderance. RCW 26.50.060 (1)(j), RCW 26.50.070, RCW 9.41.040 and RCW 9.41.800.



### Website Addresses:

[www.co.pierce.wa.us/122/Superior-Court](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/122/Superior-Court)  
[www.co.pierce.wa.us/95/Clerk-of-the-Superior-Court](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/95/Clerk-of-the-Superior-Court)  
[www.co.pierce.wa.us/101/District-Court](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/101/District-Court)  
[www.co.pierce.wa.us/112/JuvenileCourt](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/112/JuvenileCourt)

## Anti-Harassment Orders (AHOs)

Petitioners (you) **do not** need to establish a special relationship to the respondent (other party) and can include parents of minors under 18 years of age requesting an order restraining an adult. RCW 10.14.040(6).

Parent or Guardian may request an anti-harassment order on behalf of a minor against a respondent who is less than 18 years of age who has committed or been investigated for an offense against the minor. RCW 10.14.040(7).

**Entry of an AHO** may prohibit the Respondent from having any contact with the Petitioner, restrain surveillance and prohibit the Respondent from being within a specified distance of the Petitioner's residence or workplace. The order may also require surrender of any weapons. The Judge will add any additional individualized instructions to the order.

**Duration of the AHO:** The order is valid for at least up to one year, but is discretionary and can be extended for a fixed term or permanent based on the Judge's ruling.

- **Violation of the AHO is a criminal offense (gross misdemeanor) or punishable by contempt.**
- **Modification/Termination requires notice and appearance.**
- **Public policy gives the court discretion to modify, terminate or maintain the order.**

**AHOs are issued through Pierce County District Court.**