

**What is a restraining order allowing contact?**

It is a court order that prohibits you from preventing an elder or dependent adult from having contact with someone the elder or dependent wishes to have contact with.

**Who can ask for a restraining order allowing contact?**

If you are preventing an elder or dependent adult from having contact with a person that the elder or dependent adult wishes to have contact with, the following people can ask for a restraining order:

- 1 The elder or dependent adult;
- 1 The person that the elder or dependent adult is being prevented from seeing; *or*
- 1 A conservator, attorney-in-fact, or person appointed as guardian ad litem for the elder or dependent adult.

**I've been served with a request for elder or dependent adult restraining order allowing contact. What do I do now?**

Read the papers served on you very carefully. The *Notice of Court Hearing* (form EA-309) tells you when to appear in court.

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

If you disagree with the order the person is asking for, fill out form EA-320, *Response to Request for Elder and Dependent Adult Restraining Order Allowing Contact*, before your hearing date and file it with the court. If you need to include attachments, you can use form MC-025, *Attachment*. You can get forms from legal publishers or on the internet at [www.courts.ca.gov/forms](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms). You also may be able to find them at your local courthouse or county law library.

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

Yes. Have someone age 18 or older—**not you or anybody else involved in the case**—mail a copy of completed form EA-320 to the other parties in the case (or their lawyers). (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 a 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-309, *Notice of Court Hearing to Allow Contact*. If you do not go to the hearing, the judge can make an order against you without hearing from you.

**How long does the order last?**

The length of the order is determined by the court and could 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 that person 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, *Declaration*, for this.

**Can I agree with the elder or dependent adult to cancel the order?**

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

**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 can also use form INT-300, *Request for Interpreter (Civil)*, or a local court form or website to request an interpreter. For more information about court interpreters, go to [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-interpreter.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-interpreter.htm).

**What if I have a disability?**

If you have a disability and need an accommodation while you are at court, you can use form MC-410, *Disability Accommodation Request*, to make your request. You can also ask the ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see form MC-410-INFO, *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court*.