

How Can I Respond to a Petition for Private Postsecondary School Violence Restraining Orders?

What is a private postsecondary school violence 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 asked for the order
- ✓ Stay away from the student and the student's home, school, and other places
- ✓ Not have any firearms (guns), firearm parts, or ammunition as long as the order is in effect. This includes firearm receivers and frames, and any item that may be used as or easily turned into a receiver or frame (see Penal Code section 16531).
For more information about the items you would not be allowed to have, please see <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/restraining-orders/prohibited-items>.

Who can ask for a private postsecondary school violence restraining order?

A school official at a private postsecondary school can ask for an order on behalf of an adult student who is worried about his or her safety because he or she has suffered a credible threat of violence that could be carried out on the school campus or facility.

I've been served with a petition for private postsecondary school violence 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 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 SV-120, *Response to Petition for Private Postsecondary School Violence 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 from the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/forms. You also may be able to find them at your local courthouse or county law library.

What if I don't obey the order?

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

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 SV-120 to the person named in item ① of the petition form SV-110 (or the person's lawyer). (This is called "service by mail.")

The person who serves the form by mail for you must fill out form SV-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 SV-109, *Notice of Court Hearing*. If you do not go to the hearing, the judge can make orders against you without hearing from you.

SV-109 Notice of Court Hearing Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

① **Petitioner (Educational Institution Officer or Employee)**

a. Name: _____
Lawyer for Petitioner (if any for this case):
 Name: _____ State Bar No.: _____
 Firm Name: _____

b. Address (If you have a lawyer, give your lawyer's information.):
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

② **Student in Need of Protection**
 Full Name: _____

③ **Respondent (Person From Whom Protection Is Sought)**
 Full Name: _____

The court will complete the rest of this form.

④ **Notice of Hearing**
 A court hearing is scheduled on the request for restraining orders against the respondent:

Hearing Date	Date: _____	Time: _____	Name and address of court if different from above: _____
	Dept.: _____	Room: _____	_____

⑤ **Temporary Restraining Orders** (Any orders granted are on Form SV-110, served with this notice.)

a. Temporary Restraining Orders for personal conduct and stay away orders as requested in Form SV-100, *Request for Private Postsecondary School Violence Restraining Orders*, 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.)

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 three 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 student at the court hearing?

Yes. Assume that the student 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.

Information about the process is also available online.

See <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/SV-restraining-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 <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/request-interpreter>.

What if I have a gun?

If a restraining order is issued, you cannot own, possess, or have a firearm (gun), firearm parts, or ammunition while the order is in effect. If you have a firearm (gun) or firearm parts in your immediate possession or control, you must sell it to or store it with 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 school official would have to file a request with the court to cancel the order.

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*.