

# Sexual Assault/Stalking Protective Order:

A Superior Court order that can protect you from someone who is *not* a family or household member who has stalked or sexually assaulted you.

## The parties' relationship must **not** be:

- Family Members
- Household Members
- Sexual Relationship
- Dating Relationship

## The type of abuse covered in a sexual assault or stalking order:

- Stalking
- Sexual Assault
- Aggravated Sexual Assault
- Lewd and Lascivious Conduct with a Child

## The order may include:

- Stay away
- No direct/indirect contact
- Any other protections the court deems as necessary

**Please Note:** If the parties' relationship is outside of the scope of this order, or if physical abuse is involved, a *Relief from Abuse Order* through Family Court should be obtained.

## The Process of Obtaining an Order:

You can apply for a sexual assault or stalking order only *during* business hours at the Superior Court. There is no after-hours option to apply for this order at the police station. If the judge grants your order, it will be in effect from the time it is served on the defendant by law enforcement. You must attend a hearing for the final order, normally within 10 days. When the order is served to the defendant they will also be notified of the final order hearing date. In order for the final sexual assault or stalking order to be obtained, the plaintiff **must** attend this hearing or the order will be dropped. A final sexual assault or stalking order can be issued at the scheduled hearing and only after the court has either found that abuse has occurred or the defendant agrees to the order without findings. If a final order is not granted you can still work with your local domestic and sexual violence agency to create a safety plan or utilize other services they offer.

## What If I Need Support?

Your local domestic and sexual violence agency can assist with:

- Filling out the paperwork for a temporary sexual assault or stalking order
- Accompanying you to the Court hearing
- Answering questions about the process
- Obtaining a Sexual Assault Exam

## WomenSafe's 24-Hour Hotline:

(802)-388-4205 or 1-800-338-4205

*Confidential and free assistance, 7 days a week.*