

**Don't put up with
family violence**



You have a new choice

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What's my new choice?

The *Protection Against Family Violence Act* gives you three new choices that can help keep you and the ones you love safe:

- **Emergency Protection Order (EPO)** If you or members of your family are in danger of family violence, you can get an Emergency Protection Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere in the Northwest Territories. You don't need to go to court or hire a lawyer and you'll get help to apply.
- **Protection Order** This gives protection for a longer period of time. You will need to hire a lawyer and go to court to get one. This does all of the things an Emergency Protection Order does, and it can order the abusive person to take counseling.
- **Warrant** This allows the police to go into a home and help someone who may be experiencing family violence.

1-866-223-7775

or call your local RCMP

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What is family violence?

Abuse that leaves bruises may be easy to see; but there are many other types of family violence. These could include:

- **Physical abuse:** injuring you or family members;
- **Psychological abuse:** threatening you or members of your family, destroying your belongings or making you afraid for your safety;
- **Emotional abuse:** being so mean to a person that they believe they aren't good enough any more;
- **Financial abuse:** forcing you or a family member to give up money or things;
- **Abusive control:** not letting you or an adult family member come and go freely; and
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing you to do something sexual you don't want to do.

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What can an Emergency Protection Order do?

Every case is different, but an Emergency Protection Order can last for up to 90 days and may:

- Order the abusive person to stay away from you and your children;
- Allow you to stay in your home without the abusive person being there; and
- Require the RCMP to take away any weapons the abusive person may have.

An Emergency Protection Order is granted by a designated Justice of the Peace who has been specially trained for this work.

If the police know the abusive person is ignoring the order, they can help.

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Who can get this protection?

Anyone who is in a family relationship with the abusive person, or who has had a child with the abusive person, can call for help. This can include:

- either the man or the woman;
- children;
- grandparents;
- aunts, uncles, or cousins;
- people in a same-sex relationship.

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or call your local RCMP

How do you apply for this protection?

There are four steps in applying for an Emergency Protection Order. It usually takes a few hours.

1. Call 1-866-223-7775 or your local RCMP and tell them that you want to apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).
2. You will need to tell them about what is happening at your home and why you need help right away.
3. The person you call will talk to a specially trained Justice of the Peace, who will decide if you need emergency protection. This Justice of the Peace might want to talk to you, too.
4. If the Justice of the Peace decides that you need emergency protection, he or she will grant the order. The RCMP will give you and the abusive person a copy of the Emergency Protection Order and will help to make sure that you and your children are safe. They will also help you if the other person ignores the order.

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How long does an Emergency Protection Order last?

An Emergency Protection Order can last up to 90 days. If you decide you need something longer, a Protection Order may help. After the Emergency Protection Order is granted, a judge will review the order to make sure it was fair.

If the judge wants more information he or she might ask both you and the other person to come to a hearing. Each of you will have a chance to tell your side of the situation. You won't need a lawyer for this hearing unless you want to have one.

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What about older people?

It is often hard for abused older people to ask for help. They feel loyal to family members and often count on them for everyday living. But an Emergency Protection Order can help seniors too.

Sometimes seniors or Elders are abused, but they don't think it's abuse or that it's an emergency. This often happens when family members demand money from them or make them do things they don't want to do. Sometimes they hit them or push them around.

You can call 1-866-223-7775 to talk privately or you can call your local RCMP. Your nurse or social worker can also help you if someone is abusing you.

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How do I get information about an Emergency Protection Order?

Information about Emergency Protection Orders is available in your community. Ask for information from your local health and social services staff and RCMP. Look for the "Let's Talk" signs in your community. These signs mean that you can talk to people who work there about getting help.

You can call the numbers below and tell them you need to talk privately about Elder abuse:

- 1-866-223-7775 (Alison McAteer House);
- Your local RCMP;
- Or call your local social worker or nurse for information.

You can also talk privately in your own language by calling Tele-care NWT at 1-888-255-1010.

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or call your local RCMP



Northwest
Territories Justice