

# CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDER EFFECTIVENESS

## *Justice or Just a Piece of Paper?*<sup>1</sup>



**1 in 4**  
women

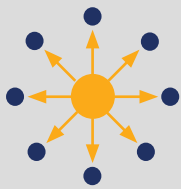


**1 in 20**  
men

have ever experienced partner physical assault, stalking, or rape and feared for their life

**CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDERS** are time-limited court orders that direct one person to stop harming another person. Laws vary from state-to-state regarding who is eligible for protection, but generally include victims of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault. Parents may also be able to seek protection on behalf of their minor children.<sup>2</sup>

### **BENEFITS OF A CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDER:**



- Can be crafted to meet specific needs of victims beyond abuse such as provisions for living arrangements, child custody, and temporary financial support
- Provides a tool for law enforcement to address partner abuse and stalking

*It is important to know the specific provisions and limitations of civil protective orders in your state (see [www.womenslaw.org](http://www.womenslaw.org)).*

## **CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDERS STOP OR REDUCE VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

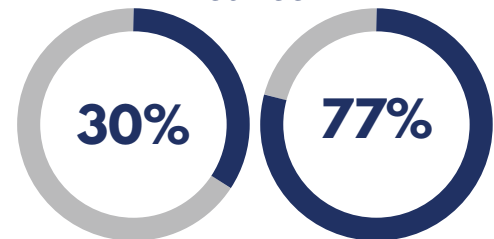


One study found that **half** of those with a protective order **did not experience protective order violations**<sup>3</sup>

For those who experienced a violation, the **incidence and frequency of violence, abuse and control was significantly reduced** for many

Overall, research shows...

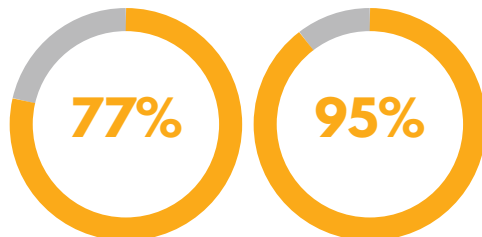
**Between**



of protective orders are **NOT** violated

## **AFTER A CIVIL PROTECTIVE ORDER...**

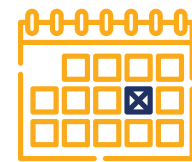
**Between**



Reported the protective order was **fairly or extremely effective** for them



**Fewer children witnessed violence and abuse**



Victims report **less fear, fewer days of stress and anxiety, more days of sleep**

<sup>1</sup> TK Logan, Ph.D. For more information email [tklogan@uky.edu](mailto:tklogan@uky.edu). February, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Also known as Personal Protective Orders, Protection from Abuse Orders, and Domestic Violence Orders.

# PERSONAL COSTS AND SYSTEM BARRIERS

Even though civil protective orders help many people, there are personal costs and system barriers that many face in getting a protective order which can include:



## TANGIBLE COSTS

- Taking time off work
- Making childcare arrangements
- Traveling to/from court



## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND FEAR COSTS

- Embarrassment
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being blamed
- Fear of having to face the abuser in court
- Fear of retaliation



## SYSTEM BARRIERS

- Discouragement from court clerks, law enforcement, and judges
- Trouble with getting the respondent served with the order
- Notification when the respondent is served with the order
- Limited enforcement of violations



**Civil Protective Orders are low cost** and help many victims and their families. At the same time, they save millions of dollars in costs that would have been incurred if the protective order had not been issued.<sup>3</sup>

*“For the first time, he took me seriously and realized that I was not going to put up with the abuse. The protective order successfully alerted him that the abuse had to stop or there would be consequences.”*

- VICTIM QUOTE

## STALKING

Studies suggest...

**45% to 66%**

of those stalking before the order is obtained **STOP stalking after the civil protective order is issued**

HOWEVER

**33% to 55%**

**experience continued stalking after the order is issued** making enforcement in these cases particularly critical<sup>3</sup>

## CHECK OUT

- The **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at [www.TheHotline.org](http://www.TheHotline.org) (1-800-799-7233)
- The **National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence** at [www.NRCDV.org/dvrn](http://www.NRCDV.org/dvrn)
- The **Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP)** at [www.StalkingRisk.com](http://www.StalkingRisk.com)
- **Other Resources** ([www.CoerciveControl.org](http://www.CoerciveControl.org) and [www.OutrageUs.org](http://www.OutrageUs.org))

<sup>3</sup> Logan, T., Walker, R., Hoyt, W., & Faragher, T. (2009). The Kentucky civil protective order study: A rural and urban multiple perspective study of protective order violation consequences, responses, & costs. (NCJ Publication # 228350). Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228350.pdf>.