

## What Is a Protective Order?

A protective order is a civil court order issued by the Court, in order to **prevent family violence or threats of family violence** to you, your child, or your entire family depending on the circumstances. A protective order can protect against family violence, stalking, human trafficking, and/or sexual assault by ordering the respondent to stay away from you and have no contact with you for a period of up to two years. Family violence includes:

- An act by a member of a family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault to another family or household member OR
- A threat that reasonably places the victim or applicant in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault.

Member of a family or household can apply to relatives, former spouses, foster parents and foster children, individuals who are the parents of the same child, and anyone else living in a house, even if they are not related.

### **HOW TO FILL THE APPLICATION OUT:**

1. Fill it out thoroughly and to the best of your knowledge.
2. Your affidavit must contain a brief summary of the most recent incident of family violence and/or describe if there is a history of family violence with the Respondent.
3. In order to serve the Respondent, you need to provide a good address on Respondent; if you don't know his/her whereabouts, we will try to obtain it.
4. This application **MUST** be signed in front of a Notary Public. A Notary Public will be available at the Courthouse from Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 5:00p.m. and Friday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.
5. If you have your application already signed by a Notary Public and ready to be submitted, you can bring it to our office from Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 5:00p.m. and Friday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. or mail it to the following address:

Liberty County Attorney's Office  
Matthew Poston  
County Attorney  
1923 Sam Houston St. Suite 202  
Liberty, TX 77575