

**COMPLAINT FOR PROTECTION FROM ABUSE**  
**(G.L. c. 209A) Page 1 of 2**

COURT USE ONLY – DOCKET NO.

**TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS**



A  BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT     DISTRICT COURT     PROBATE & FAMILY COURT     SUPERIOR COURT    \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION

<p>B Name of Plaintiff (<i>person seeking protection</i>)</p>	F	<p>Name of Defendant (<i>person accused of abuse</i>)</p>	<p>Defendant's Alias, if any</p>
			<p>Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F</p>

<p>C <input type="checkbox"/> I am 18 or older.  <input type="checkbox"/> I am under the age of 18, and _____,  my _____ (<i>relationship to Plaintiff</i>)  has filed this complaint for me.  <input type="checkbox"/> The Defendant is 18 or older.</p>	G	<p>The Defendant and Plaintiff:  <input type="checkbox"/> are currently married to each other  <input type="checkbox"/> were formerly married to each other  <input type="checkbox"/> are not married but we are related to each other by  blood or marriage; specifically, the Defendant is my _____  <input type="checkbox"/> are the parents of one or more children  <input type="checkbox"/> are not related but live in the same household  <input type="checkbox"/> were formerly members of the same household  <input type="checkbox"/> are or were in a dating or engagement relationship.</p>
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<p>D To my knowledge, the Defendant possesses the following  guns, ammunition, firearms identification card, and/or license  to carry:</p>		
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<p>E Are there any prior or pending court actions in any state or  country involving the Plaintiff and the Defendant for divorce,  annulment, separate support, legal separation or abuse  prevention? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes, give Court, type of case,  date, and (if available) docket no.</p>	H	<p>Does the Plaintiff have any children under the age of 18?  <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  If Yes, the Plaintiff shall complete the appropriate parts of  Page 2.</p>
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I On or about (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ I suffered abuse when the Defendant:  
 attempted to cause me physical harm     placed me in fear of imminent serious physical harm  
 caused me physical harm     caused me to engage in sexual relations by force, threat or duress

**THEREFORE, I ASK THE COURT:**

J  1. to order the Defendant to stop abusing me by harming, threatening or attempting to harm me physically, or placing me in fear of imminent serious physical harm, or by using force, threat or duress to make me engage in sexual relations.  
 2. to order the Defendant not to contact me, unless authorized to do so by the Court.  
 3a. to order the Defendant to leave and remain away from my residence: *See Plaintiff Confidential Information Form. If this is an apartment building or other multiple family dwelling, check here*   
 3b. to order the Defendant to leave and remain away from my workplace: *See Plaintiff Confidential Information Form.*  
 3c. to order the Defendant to leave and remain away from my school: *See Plaintiff Confidential Information Form.*  
 4a. to order that my residential address not appear on the order.  
 4b. to order that my workplace address not appear on the order.  
 4c. to order that my school address not appear on the order.  
 5. to order the Defendant to pay me \$\_\_\_\_\_ in compensation for the following losses suffered as a direct result of the abuse:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 6. to order the Defendant, who has a legal obligation to do so, to pay temporary support to me. **(You may not obtain a temporary Order from a Boston Municipal, District or Superior Court if there is a prior or pending Order for support from the Probate and Family Court.)**  
 7. to order the relief requested on Page 2 of this Complaint pertaining to my minor child or children.  
 8. to order the following: \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. to order the relief I have requested, except for temporary support for me and/or my child(ren) and for compensation for losses suffered, without advance notice to the Defendant because there is a substantial likelihood of immediate danger of abuse. I understand that if the Court issues such a temporary Order, the Court will schedule a hearing within 10 court business days to determine whether such a temporary Order should be continued, and I must appear in Court on that day if I wish the Order to be continued.

DATE	PLAINTIFF'S SIGNATURE X	<b>Please complete affidavit on reverse of this page</b>
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This is a request for a civil order to protect the Plaintiff from future abuse. The actions of the Defendant may also constitute a crime subject to criminal penalties. For information about filing a criminal complaint, you can talk with the District Attorney's Office for the location where the alleged abuse occurred.



## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PLAINTIFF

### PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

Under chapter 209A of Massachusetts General Laws, Judges can make Orders to protect people from abuse by family or household members. These Orders will be recorded and enforced by law enforcement agencies. They are commonly called “Abuse Prevention Orders” or “Restraining Orders” or “209A Orders.” In an emergency that occurs after court hours or on weekends, you may ask your local police to put you in contact with a Judge.

### CHECKLIST OF FORMS

**COMPLAINT FORM:** To request an Abuse Prevention Order, you must fill out a two-page Complaint form and any other appropriate forms. There is no filing fee. You are the “Plaintiff.” The person who you allege has abused you is the “Defendant.”

**Part C:** If either you or the Defendant is under the age of 18, indicate that in Part C. The law provides that such cases are not open to public inspection and are available only to the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff’s attorney, the person under 18, or a parent or guardian of the person under 18. If you and the Defendant are both over 18, court records of this matter will generally be open to public inspection. If you have good reasons to ask the Judge to keep other parts of the court record confidential, you may file a written request (a “motion”) asking the Judge to do so. Usually, a general preference for privacy is not a sufficient reason to permit court records to be kept confidential.

**Part E:** If you answer “Yes,” please bring with you to the courthouse any legal papers you have from any such court proceeding.

**Part J:** In number 5, financial losses may include, but are not limited to, lost earnings or support, costs for restoring utilities, replacement costs for locks or personal property removed or destroyed, medical and moving expenses, and reasonable attorneys’ fees.

**AFFIDAVIT:** On the back of the first (white) copy of the Complaint form is an affidavit where you should describe the abuse. When you are requesting relief after court hours, you must fill it out, unless a Judge indicates otherwise.

**PLAINTIFF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FORM.** Enter the appropriate information (addresses and telephone numbers). The information provided on this form is accessible only by the Plaintiff, those authorized by the Plaintiff, those authorized by statute and by court order. However, the Plaintiff’s residential address and workplace address shall appear on the order and be accessible to the Defendant and the Defendant’s attorney unless the Plaintiff specifically requests that the information be withheld from the order. The form is kept by the court but is not part of the public record.

**AFFIDAVIT DISCLOSING CARE OR CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS:** If you have any children, check “Yes” in Part H on Page 1 of the Complaint form, complete the top and any other appropriate parts of Page 2, and follow instructions in Part A on Page 2 for completing an Affidavit Disclosing Care or Custody Proceedings.

**DEFENDANT INFORMATION FORM:** This form describes the Defendant and where that person can be found. It will help law enforcement officers find that person to deliver the Order.